

TRYON

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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OCTOBER 9-12, 2025
TRYONINTERNATIONALFILMFESTIVAL.ORG

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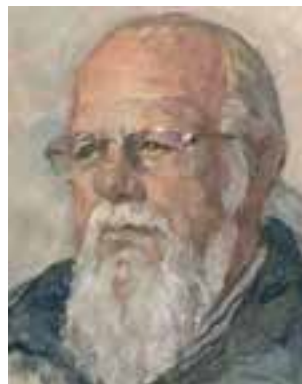
TOWN OF TRYON

301 N. TRADE ST.

TRYON, NORTH CAROLINA 28782

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



October 9, 2025

Dear Tryon International Film Festival Guests:

Welcome to our out-of-town visitors, residents of our community, and the artists who are making this the 11th annual Tryon International Film Festival. This ambitious undertaking, brought to us by the Polk County Film Initiative, is an opportunity to showcase our Town and the surrounding area to our guests.

We hope you will take this opportunity to stroll through our downtown historic district, visit our businesses and meet our citizens. We have galleries, shops, good food, and interesting history to explore, including the Tryon History Museum. We offer great access to the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The Film Initiative and Festival sponsors have done a great job of assembling artists, films and venues for you as well as networking and educational opportunities. We hope you enjoy the results, return to visit Tryon, and return to next year's event.

Warm regards,

J. Alan Peoples
Mayor of Tryon

Dear Guests, Filmmakers, Partners, Press, and Friends,

It is with gratitude, excitement, and hometown pride that I welcome you to the 11th Annual Tryon International Film Festival. Since its inception, our mission has been simple yet ambitious: to honor filmmaking in all its forms, to spark meaningful dialogue between artists and audiences, and to build community around the transformative power of cinema.

Over the years, our small mountain town has grown into a meeting place for directors, writers, actors, crew, students, educators, and cinephiles from near and far. Here in Tryon, Southern hospitality meets Appalachian warmth—conversations stretch over coffee, films linger in the heart, and the town itself becomes part of the creative experience.

This year's lineup reflects a rich tapestry of voices and visions: features that reimagine timeless narratives, documentaries that illuminate hidden truths, and experimental works that expand the boundaries of form. Each film invites you not just to watch, but to engage, to reflect, and to share.

Festivals thrive not only on screens but on encounters. Panels, masterclasses, and spontaneous conversations with fellow guests are as much a part of this celebration as the films themselves. We encourage you to lean into those moments—ask questions, share perspectives, and let the dialogue shape your experience.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers, sponsors, and partners. Your commitment, generosity, and care are the quiet engine that powers every success. To our filmmakers, thank you for your courage and creativity. To our audiences, thank you for your curiosity and spirit of discovery.

On behalf of the town of Tryon and the festival team, welcome. May these days bring you inspiration, connection, and a renewed sense of cinema's ability to connect us all.

With gratitude,

Beau Menetre

TRYON INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL





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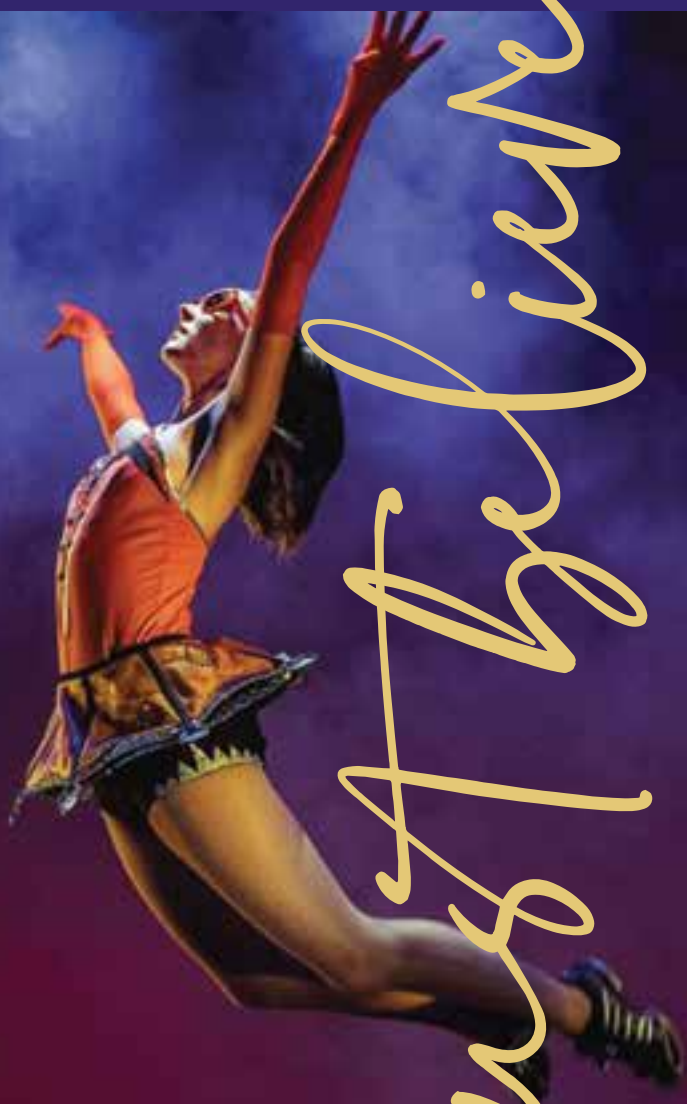


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FRANK M. CALO

BEST OVERALL FILM

Frank Calo is an independent producer and director whose film *The Believer*, starring Ryan Gosling and Billy Zane, won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival.

That film won at many festivals that year, including The Berlin Film Festival. It was shown nationwide and had a great box office run. His film *Here & There* with Cyndi Lauper and David Thornton won the Best New York Narrative In World Competition 2009 at Robert De Niro's Tribeca Film Festival in NYC and had its official New York premier played to audiences domestically and overseas. Calo has worked with Robert De Niro (*Godsend*), Demi Moore, Mike Myers, Shelly Winters, Marlon Brando, and many more. His film *The Cookout*, distributed by Lionsgate, with Queen Latifah also had a great box office run. He also worked for two years with The Motion Picture Bond Company under Robert Bordiga, as a producer working on films throughout the tri-state area. He was one of the few and only directors who studied privately under Mr. Elia Kazan.



HOMAYRA SELLIER

BEST HUMAN RIGHTS + DIGNITY FILM

Hodayra Sellier is the founder of Innocence In Danger (IID), is an international child protection organization, operating in nine countries (France, United

Kingdom, Colombia, Germany, Switzerland, United States of America, Austria, Iran, and Morocco). Because Sellier is multilingual — fluent in Spanish, French, English, and Farsi — she selects all films submitted to TRIFF's Human Rights and Dignity category. She has devoted her life to human rights

issues. Throughout the years, Sellier's organization has utilized television documentaries, billboard campaigns, and other media platforms to help raise awareness on human abuse. A number of the French, Swiss, and German films and visual works that she and her offices have been involved with have been nominated for the Prix Olivier Debouzy, one of France's most prestigious awards, and short films/spots at Cannes Film Festival. Sellier was the primary inspiration for *Illegitimate Advantage*, a 2016 novel written by Kirk Gollwitzer, the cofounder of TRIFF. They are now actively working together to adapt the novel into a major motion picture



DR. SAMUEL WAYMON

CO-JUDGE FOR BEST HUMAN RIGHTS + DIGNITY

Dr. Samuel Waymon joins the Tryon International Film Festival as a distinguished judge for the Human Rights &

Dignity performance category in the 2024 season. An inspiration in the music realm, Sam enriches the festival with his vast experience and distinctive perspective.

With a career spanning decades, Sam has left an indelible mark as a pianist, composer, singer, and performer. He is celebrated for his pioneering approach to the piano, seamlessly blending diverse musical genres. As the brother of the iconic Nina Simone, Sam co-authored many of her chart-topping songs and served as her manager, confidante, and organist for the initial 25 years of her illustrious career. He has graced the stage with legendary artists such as Miles Davis, Odetta, Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, Quincy Jones, Donny Hathaway, Phyllis Hyman, and Max Roach.

Beyond his musical feats, Sam has made notable contributions to the film industry as a composer and actor. He composed music for Jonathan Demme's Academy Award-winning film "*Philadelphia*" and

appeared in “Weeds” alongside Nick Nolte. His work in Bill Gunn’s “Ganja & Hess” garnered acclaim at the Cannes Film Festival and is enshrined in the Museum of Modern Art’s Library Archives. Recently, his composition “You’ve Got to Learn” was featured in Spike Lee’s “Da Sweet Blood of Jesus.”

Sam Waymon’s extensive background in music and film, coupled with his profound understanding of human rights and dignity, adds immense value to the judging panel of the Tryon International Film Festival 2025.



KEVIN BERNHARDT
*BEST FULL LENGTH
FEATURE FILM*

Screenwriter Kevin Bernhardt has had over 20 screenplays – result in produced films. His work has attracted Academy Award winners and nominees – including

Donald Sutherland, John Lithgow, Nick Nolte, Djimon Hounsou, Sylvester Stallone and Dennis Hopper. Other prestigious notables have included Orlando Bloom, Kevin Bacon, Michael Caine, Ben Foster, Patrick Swayze, Chris Rock, Charlie Sheen, Dolph Lundgren, Charlize Theron, and Wesley Snipes. While working to establish himself as a writer he worked as an actor, with long contract roles on General Hospital and Dynasty, as well as leads in several films such as Hellraiser.



STEVEN ESTEB
BEST SHORT FILM

Steven Esteb is a versatile filmmaker who has worked as an actor and a Hollywood screenwriter, and director of commercials, music videos, documentaries, and features. His film

Hate Crime won both Best Feature and Human Right & Dignity categories in the 2016 Tryon International

Film Festival. Other films include Dirty Politics, a dark comedy starring Judd Nelson, Beau Bridges, and Howard Hesseman; and Baller Blockin, a rap film for Universal starring Lil Wayne that hit #1 on the Billboard charts in DVD and video sales eventually going quadruple platinum. Esteb has been represented by top agencies like ICM and Paradigm as a screenwriter and has worked as a script doctor, coach, and screenwriting teacher. He is currently teaching film and screenwriting at Loyola University in New Orleans. He lived and worked at an AIDS hospice for two years while making the feature length documentary Living With... A Film About Love and AIDS. It premiered at the Santa Barbara Film Festival and traveled the world, contributing to the opening of new AIDS hospices, his proudest accomplishment. Esteb studied film production in the graduate program at Boston University and has a degree in political science. He now lives in rural Louisiana, his adopted home, with his wife and two children.



JEFF L. LIEBERMAN
*BEST DOCUMENTARY
FEATURE*

Jeff L. Lieberman is an Emmy- and WGA-nominated director, writer, and journalist, and founder of Re-Emerging Films. His latest documentary, Bella!, about Congresswoman

Bella Abzug, earned a 2024 WGA nomination and won the 2022 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize, featuring interviews with Barbra Streisand, Hillary Clinton, Gloria Steinem, and more.

His previous films include The Amazing Nina Simone, praised by The New Yorker and The New York Times, and Re-Emerging: The Jews of Nigeria, an Oscar-qualifying documentary.

Lieberman has held senior roles at CNN, CBS News, and VICE, and is currently developing his first narrative feature, My Harlem.



E. VINCENT MARTINEZ
BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

E. Vincent Martinez is a Cuban-born, Atlanta-based mixed-media artist, filmmaker, and educator. Raised in Miami, he earned a

BFA from Barry University, where he focused on ceramics and photography. He went on to deepen his exploration of lens-based media, completing an MFA in Photography at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). In 2001, he earned a Master of Art Education (MaEd) from Georgia State University. Martinez's creative work often centers on storytelling through visual and material culture. His 2023 documentary *Bringle: A Tale of Two Makers*—a portrait of 87-year-old identical twin artists—was selected for screening at the Tryon International Film Festival. He is currently in production on a new documentary profiling trailblazing blacksmith and internationally acclaimed artist Elizabeth Brim.



JULIA FOWLER
BEST COMEDY FEATURE + SHORT FILM

South Carolina native, Julia Fowler, is an actor, writer, director, and producer who most recently wrote and directed the comedic

feature, *Student Film - The Movie*, which will premiere in 2026. She was also a writer on the Netflix multi-cam comedy, *Country Comfort*, and has developed comedic projects with major studios including New Line Cinema and Warner Brothers. Her TV acting credits include *Modern Family* and *The Closer* and she is also an accomplished stage actress with Broadway and National Tours under her belt.

Julia's also the creative force behind the Southern Women Channel — a YouTube channel with over

30 million views. Her viral videos have captured hearts across the South and landed features in major media, including *The Today Show*.

We're excited to have Julia's sharp wit and Southern charm helping us celebrate comedy this year! Follow her @southernwomenchannel



SAM SOKOLOW
BEST COMEDY FEATURE + SHORT FILM

Sam Sokolow is a two-time Emmy-nominated television producer and founder of Nice Media Studios, an independent TV studio based in Los

Angeles and Toronto. He oversees development and production of scripted television and films, including acquiring and packaging IP, managing physical production, and guiding projects from concept to screen.

He is best known as the Executive Producer of *GENIUS*, the acclaimed National Geographic series he developed from book to screen. Each season explores the life of a different icon—Albert Einstein, Pablo Picasso, and Aretha Franklin—and has earned multiple Emmy nominations. Sam is also a dedicated mentor and educator, teaching at Boston University's LA program and guest lecturing at top film schools.



FRANCESCA CALO
BEST ANIMATED FILM

Calo is a bicoastal actor, MoCap performer, and voice actress who spent her childhood on film and television sets with her parents. She began acting at the age of seven, and has since

enthusiastically followed her passion. She studied and performed with theaters such as the Moscow Art Theatre Company, New York Stage and Film, as well as with acclaimed international director, Adolf Shapiro. In the voice over realm, she has worked on a myriad of animated series, anime, films, and video

continued...

games. She can be heard as Salene Crow in *Wasteland 3: The Battle of Steeltown*, Cheng Chen in the popular mobile game, *Seven Knights 2*, Stella Loussier in *Gundam Seed: Destiny*, *Pokemon*, and more.



DIANA DE ROSA
*BEST EQUESTRIAN
FILM OR PODCAST*

Diana De Rosa is a seasoned equine journalist, photographer, and media producer with over 40 years of experience covering the global equestrian world.

She has reported from more than 40 countries and has been credentialed for ten Olympic Games, numerous World Equestrian Games, Pan American Games, and World Cups. Her work encompasses writing, photography, public relations, and media production. De Rosa is the Worldwide Equestrian Correspondent for EQUUS Television Network, which has partnered with the Tryon International Film Festival to encourage more equestrian films to be entered. She is also the owner of Press Link PR and Diana De Rosa Photography. In addition to her journalistic endeavors, she is a part-time actress and a member of the Screen Actors Guild–American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA). Her contributions to the equestrian community have earned her recognition, including awards for her photography and media coverage.



COOKIE HOOD
BEST PODCAST

Born to American and Nicaraguan parents, Cookie's life has been a never-ending adventure. Raised in New Orleans, spending half her childhood in Nicaragua, the world has always been her oyster.

A successful model and prolific partier in New York City, she turned to Journalism in her 20s, hired by CBS News to run their news bureau in Managua, Nicaragua covering the controversial civil wars in Central America. Stephen Kinzer (former bureau chief of the New York Times) writes: "During the 1980s and 1990s, Cookie Hood was the driving force behind the most successful television coverage of Central America that appeared anywhere in the United States." Dan Rather called her his "Secret Weapon". She ended up breaking some of the biggest stories of the 80s, eventually working with 60 MINUTES to uncover several earth shattering aspects of the Iran-Contra scandal.

That story is now a hit podcast for iHeart Radio, titled JOURNALISTA, starring Cookie, and will soon be a series for television. She is still making waves and kicking ass, and excited to work with the Tryon International Film Festival to bring the next great stories to audiences around the world.



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ERIKA ARLEE
BEST STUDENT FILM

Erika Arlee is an award-winning director and multi-faceted filmmaker with accomplishments as an acclaimed screenwriter, cinematographer, and

co-founder of the independent, female-forward production house, Honey Head Films. Her feature directorial debut, *A Song For Imogene*, won multiple awards on the festival circuit before going on to secure a distribution deal with Buffalo8. In addition to her work as an auteur, Erika teaches a recurring screenwriting workshop and has held an adjunct professorship at UNCW in the Film Studies Department.



KRISTI RAY
BEST STUDENT FILM

Kristi Ray is a multi-hyphenate creative who's been making waves in the independent film scene for the past fifteen years. She began her acting career onstage at just

six years old, starring in her first feature film 12 years later. Classically trained at Lee Strasberg in NYC, her work as a leading lady gravitates toward dynamic characters and strong, compelling, female-centric stories. Kristi Ray has won several awards for her work in cinema, including Best Actress in a Feature, Best Supporting Actress, Outstanding Performer of the Year along with many other nominations. With small-town roots and an insatiable desire for growth, she has lived and worked in all seven of America's major production hubs; eventually settling in

the burgeoning film city of Wilmington, NC. A fearless *Libra* and self-made entrepreneur, in 2016 she co-founded Honey Head Films – an award winning, female owned production house with a mission-driven approach to narrative filmmaking. As a creative producer and actress she is intentionally moving the needle forward for marginalized voices in cinema – both in front of and behind the lens. She stars in a number of features including the latest Honey Head narrative, *A Song For Imogene*, which boasts a 100% above-the-line female team and exceptional crew made up of 70% women. In addition to a full time career in film, Kristi Ray is a programmer and judge for multiple festivals and continues to push the boundaries for high quality, female-centric stories.



JAZELLE FOSTER
*STUDENT SHORTS:
COLLEGE, HIGH
SCHOOL, AND
MIDDLE SCHOOL*

Jazelle is an actor at heart, a digital marketer by trade, and an entrepreneur by nature. during her acting years, she

taught herself marketing to promote herself as an actor. this was when she was recruited for Columbia University's pilot digital marketing boot camp. with the analytic skills to match her artistic brain, she ran marketing for some of the biggest acting schools in NYC, finally building Creative Meets Marketing.

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—Linda Burns

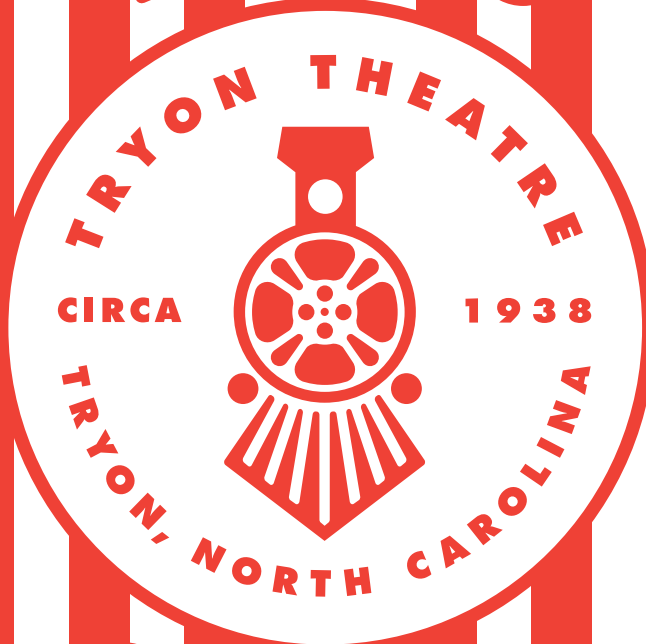


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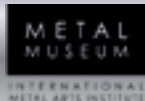
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Ms. Rossi 3: Ms. Rossi Meets the Mob - While traveling for work, Ms. Rossi gets picked up by the wrong driver at the airport.



My Sister Got Shingled - Sometimes sibling rivalry and love comes at a premium.



Passengers - A friendly middle-aged rideshare driver finds himself swept away by a series of daydreams, taking him on an unforgettable adventure that changes his life forever.



Pool Stain: A Myrtle Mystery - A door-to-door salesman stumbles across a household dealing with a dead body in the pool and is mistaken as the private investigator they called.



Rain was Not in the Forecast - P.I. Cole Front gets a visit from his old spy client and lover, Gail Storm. Does she plan to save the climate, or to catch her old flame in a weather trap?



Safety First - Safety First is a comedy in which two people find different meanings in what it means to be a friend! What happens when you tell a friend to be safe, and they aren't?



Slay Queens - Two influencers are one shoot day away from wrapping their feature film when their entire crew walks. Broke and black listed, they attempt to finish it on their own. How hard could it be?

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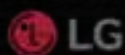
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MONICA STEVENSON

PHOTOGRAPHY

www.MonicaStevenson.com

917-754-7204



A Song For Imogene - After discovering she is pregnant by her abusive boyfriend, a fallen-away musician must decide between freeing herself or remaining a relic of her drive-by Southern town. A Song For Imogene is a gritty,

female-driven independent drama set against the grueling landscape of the American rural South that explores issues around abuse, pregnancy trauma, and the female bid for independence.



Christmas in Mistletoe - A disillusioned Christmas movie location scout rediscovers her Christmas spirit while falling in love with the perfect leading man in the cozy mountain town of Mistletoe.



Love and Taxe\$ - The new indie romantic comedy that's quickly gaining buzz for its originality, humor, and daring one-take format. Filmed in one take, the film has been wowing audiences not just with its technical ambition but with its richly drawn

characters, razor-sharp wit, and throwback 1970s charm. Described by Rob Reiner as "totally unique," Love and Taxe\$ unfolds in a single location and captures a decades-long flirtation between Donald, an ambitious CPA, and Belinda, a free-spirited waitress.

Set in the early 1970s, amidst shifting societal norms and the rise of the sexual revolution, the film explores the intertwined professional and personal lives of Donald and Belinda. Despite their annual dance around mutual attraction during tax season, navigating marriages, affairs, business ventures, and personal desires, their story delves into themes of trust, betrayal, societal expectations, and personal aspirations. This narrative is a blend of bittersweet storytelling infused with irony and wit.

The movie is a celebration of storytelling, collaboration, and good old-fashioned movie magic. Written by The Brady Bunch's Lloyd J. Schwartz and directed by Ken Feinberg and Craig D. Tollis, the film stars Jake Reiner (grandson of Carl Reiner) in his breakout lead role and Alexis Abrams (3 time Best Actress Award wins and counting). Opening music by Laurence Juber, former guitarist for Paul McCartney & Wings, and soundtrack by Kat Parsons.



One Must Wash Eyes

- One Must Wash Eyes is a drama about SAHAR. An aspiring international student from Iran who is naturally suited to academics. Her ambitions take her away from her home, culture, and most importantly, from her

MAMAN. Although she has been studying in Vancouver for three and a half years, she has difficulty connecting with her peers after studying and working at her uncle's grocery store. She finds joy in relating to TNT, an eight-year-old kid whose expertise lies in spray-painting poorly drawn smiley faces around the neighbourhood.

Sahar dedicates her downtime to writing feminist articles on her blog that shines light on the

Iranian government and its brutal laws against women. When she finds out about the death of Mahsa Amini and the anti-government protests in Vancouver, she is compelled to show her support of the female-led revolution back home. Sahar's manager, AHMAD, and her UNCLE HEKMAT, who supported her financially after her dad's death, get scared of being associated with her actions, and disown her. The Iranian government's cyber police flag Sahar as a danger to the government and suddenly it's not safe for her to go back home anymore. Meanwhile, with the lack of funds from her family, she is at risk of losing her study permit and searches for ways to pay for her tuition. With the daunting reality of deportation looming, and the extreme retributions she could face back in Iran, she tries everything to earn her own money. None of her plans work until her new roommate, MATT, offers her a job at BABU's grow-op. Sahar's plant knowledge and research ability save the grow-op from powdery mildew, which helps the growth of the black market weed. After Sahar receives the tragic news of her maman's passing, she spirals into emotional turmoil and resorts to robbing Ahmad's store. In a surprising turn of events, she gives the money to TNT's MOM, who, like Sahar, has been trying to make ends meet and now faces homelessness. Sahar can't bear the idea of seeing TNT separated from her mom and put in a foster home, so she does what she thinks is right and forgoes the payment of her tuition, missing the last deadline.

Not being able to go back home or continue her education, Sahar only has one option: to apply for refugee status. Life is a war; our survival depends on how we view it. As the title of the film suggests, "One Must Wash Eyes"; and one must see differently, drawing from an excerpt of a famous Iranian poem by Sohrab Sepehri.



THE ADDICTION OF HOPE - Jo Stock is an African American woman of a certain age faced with a decision that could uproot her life at a time when it's uncomfortable to change. As an aging actress living off her past success, she's forced to examine her choices in life and the importance of family versus fame when her sister, Linnie gets sick in this story about having the courage to change your life.



The First Man - This is the first-ever film adaptation of The First Man - an early and rare story from the pen of Nobel laureate and Pulitzer prize winner, Eugene O'Neill. This psychological romantic drama set in 1920s Connecticut, delves into themes of obsession, grief and betrayal. World renowned anthropologist Curtis is consumed by grief over his young daughters' deaths. He finds solace in immersing himself in preparations for his upcoming expedition to Asia, where he aims to unravel the mystery of "The First Man." However, he must confront an undercurrent of family conflict as he battles against his relatives' unsettling suspicions that his wife Martha is carrying his best friend Bigelow's child. 100 years after it was first published, Pulitzer and Nobel literature award winning writer Eugene O'Neill's 1920's story - 'The First Man' has been lovingly crafted as a feature film by a team of UK based film-makers led by auteur director Hardeep Giani - and this is his very first Feature film.



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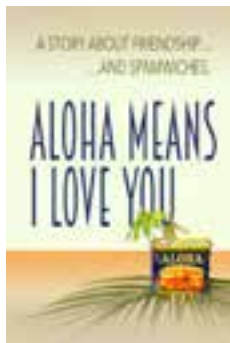


(+33) - In front of an abandoned phone booth, Mila returns to the place where her mother died, guided by an enigmatic number and hoping for answers. But as she delves into the past, what she discovers could shatter everything she thought she knew.



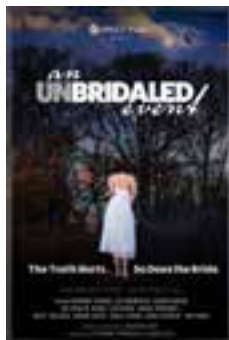
47 - A narrative short film about the anguish facing women with infertility issues, and the judgments often placed on childless women of a certain age. It grapples with the complex social dilemma of what it means to be a woman and working

professional over forty in America, struggling to balance career, motherhood and more. We want women to feel less isolated and alone in regards to infertility and childlessness in today's society.



ALOHA MEANS I LOVE YOU - Clara and Bertie have been friends for nearly 60 years, but when Clara wants to add a new man into the mix, Bertie's devotion to her friend is tested. Another Good Day - Two estranged sisters reunite in their historic river town to navigate

their father's Alzheimer's, confronting old wounds, shared memories, and the quiet beauty of letting go.



An Unbridled Event - A young bride forgoes her dreams for love, only to learn a truth that forces her to reclaim her freedom in the most unexpected way.



Another Good Day - Two estranged sisters reunite in their historic river town to navigate their father's Alzheimer's, confronting old wounds, shared memories, and the quiet beauty of letting go. Another Good Day follows two estranged

sisters as they return to their historic hometown of Dubuque, Iowa, to face the emotional and logistical realities of their father's advancing Alzheimer's. Against the backdrop of the city's riverwalks, coffee shops, and iconic local haunts, the sisters navigate old tensions, bittersweet memories, and the unspoken weight of what lies ahead.

Their journey is one of laughter as much as grief—stories of childhood pancake breakfasts and the family's legendary meatloaf with eggs in the middle mingle with tender moments of caregiving and reconciliation. As the sisters confront the slow unraveling of memory, they rediscover the bond that once made them inseparable and learn to embrace the quiet dignity of letting go. With the warmth of a two-hander and the intimacy of a love letter to Midwestern family life, Another Good Day is a heartfelt exploration of sisterhood, memory, and the recipes that hold us together.



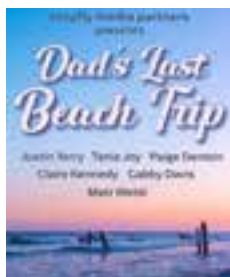
Behind Closed Doors - A genre-bending coming-of-age thriller following an anxiety-ridden teenager going to a high school house party to try and find connection, but an unexpected connection finds him instead.



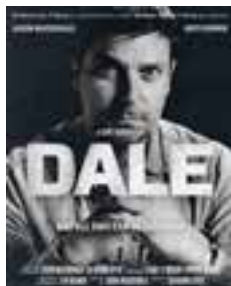
Cost Of Joy - Angie desperately tries to self-exit, but the universe doesn't seem to let her. As she accepts her fate, she begins to find magic everywhere.



Crane - A young girl gets the opportunity to visit her father, who is in a psychiatric hospital for a serious mental illness. Crane is based on the director's own experience growing up with a parent with a serious mental illness.



Dad's Last Beach Trip - After finding out his dad has been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's, Matt and his mom plan one last family trip to the beach.



Dale - A man is interviewed about the reasons he committed a brutal murder three decades earlier. Dark secrets don't stay secret forever and not all sins can be forgiven.



Devil's Playground - In the quirky suburban neighborhood of Devil's Playground, multiple children, including Molly's daughter Zoe, have gone missing. As Molly grapples with the devastating loss,

she faces a choice: continue her relentless search for Zoe or succumb to the temptation of forgetting her grim reality and moving on. Molly must navigate the eerie landscape of her community while confronting her own inner demons. As she dives deeper into the mystery, she discovers unsettling truths that challenge her perception of both her neighborhood and herself. In this gripping story of loss, resilience, and the struggle for closure, Molly's journey explores the darkest corners of truth and illusion.



Distant Shore - Haunted by grief, a man finds an unexpected connection that sparks the beginning of his recovery.



For Every Breath

- A young girl goes on an illicit scavenger hunt to find medication for her strung out grandmother.



Hearts Of Stone

- In the heart of a bustling metropolis, Paula, a lonely street artist, entertains people as a living statue. She longs with an impossible love for Agatha, a stone sculpture next to which she can be

found every day. One day, when reaching her familiar spot, she finds her stone companion replaced by an abstract, modern sculpture. After a frantic search, she discovers Agatha cast aside amidst a group of discarded, classical statues who have lost their place in the modernising sculpture park. As the sun sets, Paula finds herself trying to wake the lonely statue from her stone slumber.



Howard - In a near-future where automation has made human labor obsolete, HOWARD follows a truck driver—played by Sawyer Spielberg—reduced to a passenger in his own self-driving rig. As his job, marriage, and

identity slip away, Howard drifts through life in quiet resignation. But when Ophelia, a sharp-witted teenage stowaway, unexpectedly climbs aboard, her presence jolts him awake. Through their unlikely bond, Howard finds the courage to confront his future and take control of his own destiny—no longer just a passenger. Written and directed by Paulina Keszler, this 15-minute short explores connection, resilience, and the quiet rebellion of reclaiming purpose in a world speeding past.



interiorem pueri

- Beatrice makes a pilgrimage to have a Last Supper with her inner child, before abandoning her, and their shared dreams, in a desert bunker. Changing them both forever.



Mother - Paulina (35 years old) is out on parole after serving a prison sentence for the murder of her husband Andrzej. She returns to her hometown to meet her 11-year-old son Nikodem. Jadwiga (55 years old), Paulina's mother-in-law who

takes care of Nikodem, does not want this meeting to take place. She is still grieving the loss of her son, Andrzej, and is unable to forgive Paulina for what she did. The film deals with domestic violence and its consequences.

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My Last Martini

- One evening at an elegant cocktail lounge, a frustrated writer impulsively breaks a self-imposed rule and decides to have a third martini. Moments later, he is joined by a mysterious woman

who drifts over from the next booth, looking for a good listener—played by Wendy Robie, the eyepatch-wearing Nadine Hurley from the infamous TV series TWIN PEAKS. Based on a story by Barry Gifford (David Lynch's WILD AT HEART and LOST HIGHWAY).



N.U.B. -

In the not-so-distant future a procedure exists that can eliminate self doubt caused by childhood trauma and emotional wounds. An abusive childhood leaves Joan (Jessie Cohen) isolated and struggling to find self-worth in a world where

the standard is nothing short of perfection. After meeting Dr. Freeman (Gina Comparetto) the doctor who developed the technology and a chance encounter with another patient named Chloe (Andrea Thompson) the procedure becomes more appealing. Joan is also left with a great sense of unease. She battles internally whether she should go forward with the cutting-edge procedure, but is hopeful it will give her the happiness she's desperately been searching for. Will it end her suffering or change the core of who she is and strip away what makes her human?



Obedient Hand of a Martyr

- Struggling artist Gerald Page is an obsessive author who struggles to cope with his parents' untimely, tragic death. By allowing his work to consume him, he avoids accepting the reality of his situation, much to his older brother's dismay.



On Paper -

Barbara sits alone at her office retirement party, afraid to open a small gift-wrapped package sitting on the table in front of her. The next day, she tries to forget the gift, but a day hike with her husband Phil conjures up

haunting memories. It turns out their marriage has been filled with lies and steps are taken that will change their relationship forever.



Prawn Star -

When a young shrimp gains aspirations to become an actor, he purposefully gets caught by humans so he can end up at a fancy restaurant and on the plate of someone who could make him famous.

Shot partially underwater and partially

on location in a restaurant and bar, this tale of a puppeteered peeled shrimp and his movie star aspirations illustrates the absurdity of "going for it" and what it can really take to follow your dreams...



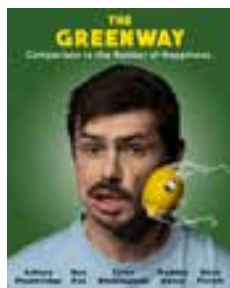
SilverSizzle - Two recent widowers enlist the aid of a cemetery caretaker to find new love among widows visiting their departed spouses.

Widower Buddy has some experience being alone when he meets Jamie while visiting the graveside of his recently

departed wife. Engulfed in loneliness, Jamie gets pulled into life in all its messiness when Buddy tells him about getting old, "the options are not kind. Loneliness, irrelevance, invisibility." SilverSizzle embarks on an absurd exploration of older people living life right up until the end.



Solo Trip - A woman has an out-of-body experience on the beach. She meets a young soul, a soul mate, and an old soul before returning to her body.



The Greenway - Inspired by fitness podcast bro, Ryan Reps, complacent bachelor Scott takes on the dreaded trifecta of adulthood self-improvement: clean eating, self-help books, and most importantly -

exercise. Scott's neighborhood greenway is the perfect place for him to get his cardio in, but as it turns out, he's not going to get the trail all to himself. Between fending off a young lemonade

salesman, falling head over heels for the girl next door, and dodging a hulking mystery runner who lacks spacial awareness, Scott's fitness journey takes some unexpected turns. Will he succumb to the pressures of being the new kid on the block, or will he earn his place on the greenway, one lemon to the face at a time?



The Night Rambler - When Jack's old friend William returns from the cattle drives he carries a series of dark tales about a phantom clergyman and his worn Bible slowly making his way through the Carolinas in their direction. Jack is sure the

stories are pure folklore, but he and Will are faced with an impossible decision when the object of their ghost stories shows up in the firelight.



The Painter - After the untimely death of her mother, Casey Miller inherits a painting of a lone cabin in a secluded forest. Casey becomes increasingly distressed as she begins to notice subtle changes appearing in the

painting—unsure if they're real or creations of her mind— while a sinister presence closes in on her.



The Perfect Match - According to the algorithm, Chris and Casey are the PERFECT MATCH. Same corporate jobs, same fav cocktail, and they both live in Queens! Only one data point differs— does that jinx their chances? What does A.I. know about love?



THE PROFESSIONAL PARENT - Ingrid, a single mother living with her daughter and grandmother in an eastern Slovak village where Roma face stigma, becomes a professional parent to a Roma girl to survive.



The Rug - Made with a crew of creative senior citizens, this short horror film centres around Edna, a senior aged woman who discovers that a discarded throw rug she has found will, for lack of a better word, digest anything left under it. The more it

digests, the more it wants. After devouring her pesky landlord and a nosy cop, the rug has gotten so frisky that Edna finds herself trapped in her own home with no way out. Funded in part by the New Horizons for Seniors Program.



The Solution - A math professor, rejected over and over again for publication, finds herself supplanted by her genius-level teaching assistant, and resorts to drastic measures to re-assert her authority.



The Third Dream - A dreamer resists interrogation by a relentless doctor determined to extract the truth about his dream by coercive use of psychoanalysis. As pressure deepens, memories are altered, erased, and rewritten

at will. With no escape from the authority's reach, he realizes the truth was never his to protect, and confession was inevitable from the beginning.

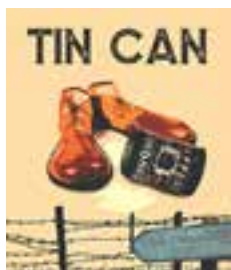


The Watcher - When a real estate broker returns to his family's rural farm, he's unsettled by a scarecrow that seems to be more than just decoration. As tensions rise and strange things unfold, he's forced to

confront not only the figure in the field—but the roots he tried to leave behind.



Thrive - A middle-aged man struggles with PTSD through a series of memory and personal encounters.



Tin Can - J.C. finds himself down on his luck and in search for a new happiness. He eventually finds it near the Mexican border but the price he pays could get him kicked out of the only country he knows.

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Better Together: Furman's Championship Quest - In a historic season that defied all odds, the 2022-23 Furman Paladins emerged from the shadows of previous defeat in the Southern

Conference tournament championship to claim their first conference tournament title in over four decades, silencing doubters and cementing their place in college basketball history as a Cinderella team in the NCAA Tournament. This 5-episode limited docuseries earned a 2025 Southeast EMMY® nomination for Best Sports Documentary and a nomination at the 7th Annual Hashtag Sports Awards for Best Documentary.



Color Beyond the Lines - The black communities in the mountains of NC fought to give their children a quality education. They understood to be truly free, they needed to have a good education. When integration came, it brought

the black community better facilities, but it came at a high price. Their beloved institutions that had helped shape their identity and their heritage were torn asunder. This is their story.



Covert Devotion: The Aurora Ritter Story - The remarkable true story of Aurora Ritter, an American school teacher who is deceived by her German-immigrant husband, Nikolaus Ritter, when he emerges as the leader of one

of the largest enemy spy rings of World War II. Stranded in Nazi Germany, Aurora fights heroically to protect her children from the horrors of war.



Echoes of Loss: Eight Days in Israel - Join award-winning filmmaker, Rob Mor, an Israeli-American widower, affectionately known as "DadBob," as he travels to Israel in the aftermath of the October 7th Terrorist attacks. Journey alongside Mor as he travels from

his home-base in Los Angeles to his homeland of Israel. Set against a backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war and rising global antisemitism, Mor explores his own healing journey after losing his wife, Noel, to ovarian cancer in 2019. Throughout the film, Mor interviews widows, parents, and family members who lost loved ones on October 7th and explores the grief felt by Israelis and Jews worldwide over this past year of turmoil. Bear witness to the enduring power of the human spirit, as the community cries, laughs, and rebuilds together alongside Mor.



Horses and the Science of Harmony - Equestrian documentary "Horses & the Science of Harmony" examines the nature of harmony

between horse and rider through the eyes of Bubby Upton and through the lens of cutting-edge science.

Horses and the Science of Harmony tells the story of Bubby Upton, a rising star in the world of 3-day eventing, who suffered a catastrophic spinal injury yet bravely fought to get back to doing what she loves... ride. Bubby's emotional story is woven alongside cutting-edge science to educate viewers about equine behavior

and optimal well-being, while simultaneously asking the question “what is it about horses that speaks so strongly to our hearts?”



Iron Pearls- Elizabeth Brim is known throughout the craft world for her life-sized, steel replicas of traditionally feminine objects such as hats, dresses, pillows, and flowers; for her expressive and fluid use of the

material; and for her facility at inflating steel forms with compressed air. “Iron Pearls,” titled after Elizabeth Brim’s signature trademark of sporting a string of pearls in the iron studio, tells the story of a woman who fought her way into the world of blacksmithing and made a name for herself in this male-dominated field.



Rescued Hearts Film - Rescued Hearts is a powerful documentary that explores the profound and often miraculous connection between humans and horses. Inspired by a life-changing moment—when a 7-year-old boy diagnosed with autism

spoke his first words while interacting with a horse—filmmakers Dana Croschere and Krisanna Sexton set out to uncover the deeper meaning behind this extraordinary bond. Through deeply moving personal stories, expert insights, and research, Rescued Hearts explores how horses serve as catalysts for healing and transformation, helping us open our hearts and reconnect with our authentic selves. The film

not only highlights lives forever changed through these experiences but also reveals a profound truth: healing is never one-sided. Rescued Hearts isn’t just the story of horses — it’s the story of all of us, offering an invitation for deeper connection with ourselves, each other, and all of nature.



SEGAL - A legendary entertainer shares his life story, from a shy kid from Great Neck, Long Island to a sought-after leading man during Hollywood’s most prolific decades.

“This is a truly special film, and I had a

wonderful time watching it.”--David O. Russell



The Heart of France in 80 days

- A young independent woman (Barbara Doux) leaves everything behind to return to her homeland, traveling in a converted van to trace a geographic heart as a symbol of reconciliation with her

roots after years of feeling alienated from her French culture and family. Along the way, she interviews strangers across France, uncovering fragments of herself in each encounter while exploring themes of love, loss, forgiveness, and what it means to live fully.

Like Jules Verne’s adventurers, she embarks on an 80-day journey through open seas, bustling cities, late-night raves, quiet wilderness, and slow rivers—sleeping in tents, yurts, houses, and her camper van—rediscovering both her country and herself.



The Mustang Whisperer - The Mustang Whisperer follows Gregory S. Sklar—known as Clear—on his journey from TV co-host to natural horseman, revealing the deep, ancient bond between

humans and horses. Through breathtaking imagery and powerful storytelling, the film shows how horses embody empathy, trust, and non-verbal wisdom, offering lessons in leadership and healing that resonate today. At the intersection of nature and technology, The Mustang Whisperer invites us to reimagine the future—where the principles of horsemanship guide the ethical growth of artificial intelligence and remind us of our shared path forward with the horse.



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 9th

The Fitzgerald - 69 Pacolet Street

9:00 - 11:00 AM **Media Arts Day Education + Career Fair, Student Shorts Corner, Lunch**

11:00 - 1:00 PM **Guest Speaker: Frank Calo**

Mirrorball Gallery - 84 Pacolet Street

7:00 - 9:00 PM **Welcome Reception**

Friday, October 10th

TFAC - Pavilion - 34 Melrose Ave

9 AM - 4 PM **Education Summit**

Mirrorball Gallery - 84 Pacolet Street

9 PM - **AFTER PARTY!**

Tryon Theatre - 45 South Trade Street

7:00 PM **For Every Breath** (11:39) USA

7:15 PM **A Song For Imogene** (1:43:00) USA

Saturday, October 11th

The Fitzgerald - 69 Pacolet Street

9:00 - 11:00 AM **Coffee + Conversations with Honey Head Films' Erika Arlee + Kristi Ray**

Tryon Theatre - 45 South Trade Street

10:00 AM **Eugene O'Neill's - The First Man** (2:00:00) UK

12:30 PM **Rescued Hearts Film** (1:58:00) USA

3:00 PM **LOVE and TAXES** (1:25:00) USA

5:00 PM **Christmas in Mistletoe** (1:40:00) USA

8:00 PM **Christmas in Mistletoe** (1:40:00) USA

TFAC - Pavilion - 34 Melrose Ave

11:00 AM **Student Short Block A** (70:31) + Q&A

The Painter (12:30) USA

Off the Rails (22:42) KOR

Mrs. Tireseas (4:13) CHI

The Darkest Stroke of Midnight (14:04) USA

Canchas (17:42) USA

12:45 PM **Comedy Short Block C** (59:12) + Q&A

The Rug (11:09) CAN

Pool Stain: A Myrtle Mystery (8:00) USA

Passengers (7:00) USA

Prawn Star (8:59) USA

Ms. Rossi 3 (20:00) USA

Rain was Not in the Forecast (4:44) USA

TFAC Veh Stage - 34 Melrose Ave.

10:00 AM **The Heart of France in 80 days** (48:24) FRA

11:30 AM **The Mustang Whisperer** (1:39:00) USA

2:00 PM **Color Beyond the Lines** (54:00) USA

3:30 PM **Covert Devotion: The Aurora Ritter Story** (1:12:00) USA

5:00 PM **2 Miles to Freedom** (39:47) USA

6:00 PM **The Rewilders** (37:58) CAN

Tryon Depot Room - 22 Depot Street

12:00 PM **Equestrian Short Dramatic Block B** (82:21) + Q&A

Douwe the Friesian (2:00) USA

The Horses of No Man's Land (8:00) USA

2025 WEF-Fidelity \$385,000 Grand Prix (15:46) USA

BraveHearts' 2024 NYCity 9/11 & Veterans Day Tribute Ride (41:19) USA

Horses and Humans (12:13) USA

The Rise of Checker 47 (3:04) USA

Saturday, October 11th

Tryon Depot Room - 22 Depot Street

2:00 PM **Equestrian Short Dramatic Block D** (94:30) + Q&A

2025 USPA Women's Open Polo Championship (10:17) USA

Jockeys & Jeans Benefit at Gulfstream (12:27) USA

Ursel: The Little Mare (16:05) USA

EVOKE (20:00) USA

My Life Between The Reins (2:58) USA

Renegade: Born to be Wild (23:23) USA

4:00 PM **Documentary Short Block G** (135:18) + Q&A

Searching for Simorgh (39:55) FRA


Okay, Mr. Ray! (17:56) USA

Portrait of a Seaweed Farmer: Ana Borrero, PhD (10:11) USA

Refabricate (27:17) USA

A Mind Like Still Water (39:59) USA

Renegade: Born to be Wild (23:23) USA

5:00 PM **Equestrian Reception** 

Sunday, October 12th

Greenlife Inn at the Mimosa - 65 Mimosa Inn Dr.

9 - 11 AM **Brunch with a Filmmaker**

10:30 - **Marketing and Branding for Creatives with Jazelle Foster**

11:30 AM

Tryon Theatre - 45 South Trade Street

11:00 AM **THE ADDICTION OF HOPE** (01:42:00) USA

1:30 PM **SEGAL** (01:57:00) USA

4:00 PM **One Must Wash Eyes** (01:28:00) CAN

6:00 PM **Iron Pearls** (55:00) USA

TFAC - Pavilion - 34 Melrose Ave

12:00 PM **Short Dramatic Block H** (108:44) + Q&A

N.U.B. (29:08) USA

47 (15:00) USA

Cost of Joy (7:17) USA

Thrive (19:15) USA

Devil's Playground (11:22) USA

Dad's Last Beach Trip (8:00) USA

The Solution (17:03) USA

2:30 PM **Short Dramatic Block J** (76:09) + Q&A

Bwinky's Little Big World of Love (3:23) USA

Dobrina (5:00) GER

The Watcher (14:01) USA

An Unbridled Event (9:42) USA

The Night Rambler (8:28) USA

Obedient Hand of a Martyr (11:46) USA

Behind Closed Doors (24:29) USA

TFAC - Veh Stage - 34 Melrose Ave

11:00 AM **Echoes of Loss: Eight Days in Israel** (01:12:00)

1:00 PM **Better Together: Furman's Championship** (58:44) USA

3:00 PM **Horses and the Science of Harmony** (1:17:00) USA

5:00 PM **Dale** (15:47) USA

4:15 PM **Short Dramatic Block K** (83:49) + Q&A

On Paper (16:00) USA

Howard (14:00) USA

My Last Martini (14:00) USA

interiorem pueri (9:53) USA

Hearts Of Stone (29:56) BEL

Tryon Depot Room - 22 Depot Street

12:30 PM **Short Dramatic Block I** (72:24) + Q&A

The Crawfish Dance (2:45) CAN

(+33) (16:15) FRA

Solo Trip (8:11) USA

Crane (7:40) USA

The Third Dream (18:42) Iran

Distant Shore (21:10) USA

3:00 PM **Conversations about Documentaries with Jeff L. Lieberman + E. Vincent Martinez**



TRIFF25 Awards Ceremony

(open to festival pass holders & public)

Sunday, Oct 12th 7:00 PM @ Tryon Theatre - 45 South Trade St.



8:30 PM Afterparty!

15 South Trade Street



Food and Beverages

- A** Buck's Pizza
- B** Valhalla Cakes
- C** Brook's Tavern
- D** Throwback Bar Grille
- E** Katie D's Deli
- F** KD's Sea Shack
- G** Side Street Pizza
- H** Trade St. Diner
- I** Tryon Coffeehouse
- J** Huckleberry's
- K** All Good Things
- L** IGA Grocery
- M** Tryon Bottle
- N** Livery Pourhouse
- O** Mirrorball Gallery
- P** The Fitzgerald

Art Galleries

- N** 80Six
- ★** Carri Bass Photography & Art
- ★** Mirrorball Gallery
- ★** Tryon Painters & Sculptors
- ★** Tryon Fine Arts Center
- ★** Creators Vault
- R** Tryon Arts & Crafts School
- S** Monica Stevenson Photography
- T** Green River Gallery
- U** Upstairs Artspace

Shops

- 1** Brett Auston Gifts
- 2** Carolina Confectioners
- 3** Four Winds Florist
- 4** Frederick's Jewelers
- 5** Mountain Trail Soap
- 6** Nest at Missildine
- 7** Wild Petunias
- 8** Tryon Toy Makers
- 9** Saluda Forge
- 10** Back Alley Bud Bar
- 11** Missi & Company
- 12** Foothills Mercantile

Salon/Spa

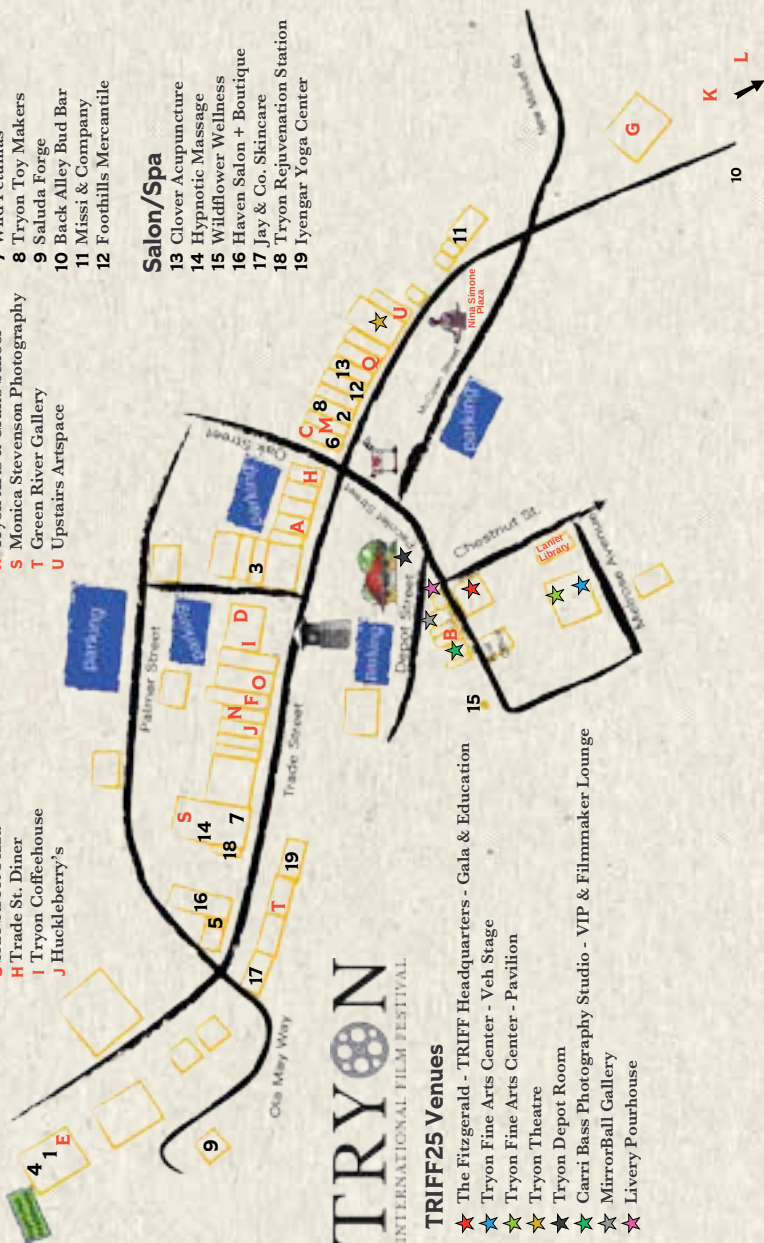
- 13** Clover Acupuncture
- 14** Hypnotic Massage
- 15** Wildflower Wellness
- 16** Haven Salon + Boutique
- 17** Jay & Co. Skincare
- 18** Tryon Rejuvenation Station
- 19** Iyengar Yoga Center

TRYON

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

TRIFF25 Venues

- ★** The Fitzgerald - TRIFF Headquarters - Gala & Education
- ★** Tryon Fine Arts Center - Vch Stage
- ★** Tryon Fine Arts Center - Pavilion
- ★** Tryon Theatre
- ★** Tryon Depot Room
- ★** Carri Bass Photography Studio - VIP & Filmmaker Lounge
- ★** MirrorBall Gallery
- ★** Livery Pourhouse





MEDIA ARTS DAY THURSDAY, OCT 9



9 AM - 11 AM

Education + Career Fair, Student Shorts (Family Friendly student films), A boxed Lunch will be served.

11 AM - 1 PM

Hear from Special Guest Frank Calo,

FRANK CALO is a seasoned film Producer, Director, and Writer with over 30 years of work in the industry, both above and below the line. He works in multiple genres, including Theater, Film, Reality TV, Episodics, and Documentaries. His film *The Believer* starring Ryan Gosling won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival in 2001. Frank has worked with top actors including Robert DeNiro, Madonna, Demi Moore, Mike Myers, Shelly Winters, Marlon Brando, Queen Latifah, Danny Glover, and many more. When Frank was a young and upcoming director, he was one of six directors who was taught by the legendary, Elia Kazan.

VENUE

The Fitzgerald | 69 Pacolet St. Tryon, NC

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>



Welcome friends old and new! We are happy to be open and operating in beautiful Tryon, NC. Please come inside and experience self-pour for yourself.

We have a variety of seasonal beers, wines, and food items for you to enjoy and experience. Follow us on social to see events coming soon!

Check us out online for more info:

Untappd:



Website:



Instagram:





WELCOME RECEPTION THURSDAY, OCT 9

7 PM - 9 PM

Kick off the Tryon International Film Festival with our lively Welcome Reception! Join filmmakers, industry professionals, and film lovers for an evening of networking, celebration, and community spirit. It's the perfect opportunity to meet fellow creatives, share your passion for film, and get energized for the exciting days ahead. Stay tuned for updates on the time and venue.

***Food and drink for sale**

VENUE

Mirrorball Gallery
84 Pacolet St., Tryon, NC

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>

MIRRORBALL
GALLERY+
STUDIO LOUNGE



CREATIVES EDUCATION SUMMIT FRIDAY, OCT 10



9 AM - 4 PM



- **Distributing Your Film: Watch213.TV - David Sonkin**
- **Acting, Voiceover, and MOCAP - Francesca Calo**
- **Writing with Impact - Kevin Bernhardt**
- **Directing for Film: Vision, Leadership & Craft - Frank Calo**
- **Podcasting: Finding Voice & Building an Audience - Cookie Hood + Steven Esteb**
- **Catered Lunch Break**
- **Comedy in Film, TV, and New Media - Julia Fowler + Sam Sokolow**
- **Breaking In & Moving Up: Real Talk for Working Filmmakers - Linda Burns**
- **Speed Networking**



VENUE

Tryon Fine Arts Center
34 Melrose Ave, Tryon, NC



FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>



Funding provided by the Mary F. Kessler Fund at the
Polk County Community Foundation





we are

Since 1950, Foothills Humane Society has been a trusted haven for the homeless & needy animals of our community—providing compassionate care, shelter, & hope for thousands of pets on their journey to forever homes.



989 Little Mountain Rd.
Columbus, NC 28722



WHAT WE DO

Foothills Humane Society serves more than 1,000 animals each year with shelter, medical care, and adoption services. Our mission extends throughout Polk County and into the communities of Landrum, Campobello, and Gowensville, ensuring pets in need have a brighter future. Every animal we serve brings us closer to our vision of a community where all pets are safe, healthy, and loved.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

Adopt • Foster
Donate • Volunteer

DONATE | ❤️



(828) 863-4444 www.FoothillsHumaneSociety.org

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FRIDAY EVENING GALA FRIDAY, OCT 10

5 PM - 9 PM

Kick off the Tryon International Film Festival in style at our red carpet Gala. Enjoy an evening of elegance with small plate bites, live entertainment, and inspiring conversations. Mingle with filmmakers from around the world, pose for the cameras, and raise a glass as we celebrate film, friendship, and the magic of the movies.

VENUE

The Fitzgerald
69 Pacolet Street, Tryon

TICKETS ON SALE AT

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>





GALA FEATURED SCREENINGS FRIDAY, OCT 10

7 PM - 9 PM

For Every Breath

A young girl goes on an illicit scavenger hunt to find medication for her strung out grandmother.

A Song for Imogene

A sudden death and unexpected pregnancy force an impoverished woman to decide between freeing herself or remaining a relic of her drive-by Southern town.

Honey Head Films is an award winning, full service, female-led production house with a mission-driven approach to filmmaking.

VENUE

Tryon Theatre | 45 S Trade St

TICKETS ON SALE AT

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>





GALA AFTERPARTY FRIDAY, OCT 10

9 PM - LATE

**Keep the celebration going
long after the credits roll!**

**Join filmmakers, artists,
and film lovers for our
official Festival Afterparty
— a night of music, dancing,
and unforgettable
connections.**

**Raise a glass, let loose, and
toast to the magic of
cinema in true festival
style.**

***Cash Bar**

VENUE

**Mirrorball Gallery
84 Pacolet St, Tryon**

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>

MIRRORBALL
GALLERY +
STUDIO LOUNGE



**COFFEE + CONVERSATIONS WITH
HONEY HEAD FILMS'
KRISTI RAY & ERIKA ARLEE
SATURDAY, OCT 11**

9 AM - 11 AM

Kick off the day with coffee, pastries, and conversation! This casual brunch brings filmmakers together to connect, share ideas, and spark creativity. Fresh from last night's screenings, Kristi and Erika will be on hand to dive deeper into their films and answer your questions. Join us to network, collaborate, and fuel both your body and creative spirit.

VENUE

**The Fitzgerald
69 Pacolet St, Tryon**

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>



**Funding provided by the Mary
F. Kessler Fund at the Polk
County Community Foundation**



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Tryon.com



(828) 440-1018

289 A. South Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782

SCREENINGS

SATURDAY, OCT 11

TRYON THEATRE | 45 S TRADE ST.

10 AM | Eugene O'Neill's - The First Man

12:30 | Rescued Hearts

3 PM | LOVE and TAXE\$

5 PM | CHRISTMAS IN MISTLETOE

8 PM | CHRISTMAS IN MISTLETOE



TFAC - VEH STAGE | 34 MELROSE AVE

10 AM | The Heart of France in 80 days

11:30 AM | The Mustang Whisperer

2 PM | Color Beyond the Lines

3:30 PM | Covert Devotion: The Aurora Ritter
Story

5:00 PM | 2 Miles to Freedom

6 PM | The Rewilders



SCREENINGS

SATURDAY, OCT 11

TFAC - PAVILION | 34 MELROSE AVE

11 AM | STUDENT SHORT BLOCK A - (70:31) + Q&A

The Painter, Off the Rails, Mrs. Tireseas, The Darkest Stroke of Midnight, Canchas

12:45 PM | COMEDY SHORT BLOCK C - (59:12) + Q&A

The Rug, Pool Stain: A Myrtle Mystery, Passengers, Prawn Star, Ms. Rossi 3: Ms. Rossi Meets the Mob, Rain was Not in the Forecast

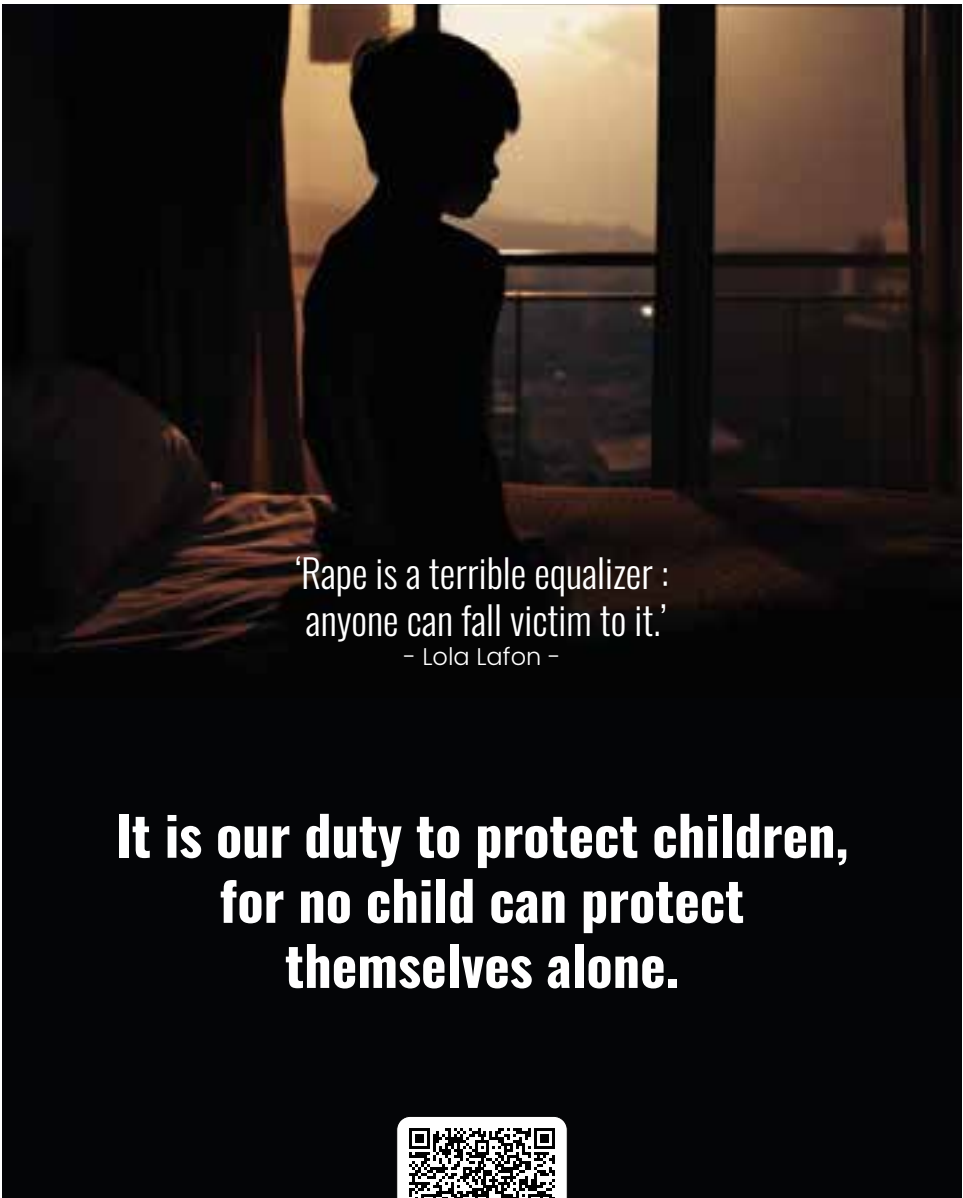
2:15 PM | COMEDY SHORT BLOCK E- (64:56) + Q&A

ALOHA MEANS I LOVE YOU, SilverSizzle, The Perfect Match, Safety First, My Sister Got Shingled, Slay Queens, The Greenway

3:45 PM | HUMAN RIGHTS + DIGNITY SHORT BLOCK F - (99:38) + Q&A

Tin Can, Another Good Day, Mother, THE PROFESSIONAL PARENT, Where's My Coffee Cup?





'Rape is a terrible equalizer :
anyone can fall victim to it.'

- Lola Lafon -

**It is our duty to protect children,
for no child can protect
themselves alone.**



Support Innocence in Danger,
which has been committed to this mission for 25 years.

SCREENINGS

SATURDAY, OCT 11

THE DEPOT | 22 DEPOT ST

12 PM | Equestrian Short Dramatic Block B - (82:21) + Q&A

Douwe the Friesian, The Horses of No Man's Land, 2025 WEF-Fidelity \$385,000 Grand Prix, BraveHearts' 2024 NYCity 9/11 & Veterans Day Tribute Ride, Horses and Humans, The Rise of Checker 47

2 PM | Equestrian Short Dramatic Block D - (94:30) + Q&A

2025 USPA Women's Open Polo Championship, Jockeys & Jeans Benefit at Gulfstream, Ursel: The Little Mare, EVOKE, My Life Between The Reins, Renegade: Born to be Wild

4 PM | Documentary Short Block G - (135:18) + Q&A

Searching for Simorgh, Okay, Mr. Ray!, Portrait of a Seaweed Farmer: Ana Borrero, PhD, Refabricate, A Mind Like Still Water





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Advent Health



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access

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Resource Seven/Group Access is proud to be a sponsor of the Tryon International Film Festival. This is a wonderful event to showcase films and film makers from all over the world to our community in The Foothills of North Carolina.

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HEATHER MOBLEY



EQUESTRIAN RECEPTION SATURDAY, OCT 11

5 PM - 6 PM

Join us in Tryon, NC for a special Equestrian Film Reception hosted by EQUUS as part of the Tryon International Film Festival. Meet filmmakers, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, and watch a curated selection of films celebrating the passion, beauty, and stories of the equestrian world.

VENUE

The Tryon Depot Room
22 Depot St, Tryon, NC

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>





NETWORKING BLOCK PARTY SATURDAY, OCT 11

6 PM - 8 PM

Join filmmakers, industry guests, and film lovers for an evening of connection and celebration at our signature Saturday Networking Block Party!

Set on Pacolet Street, mingle with creatives from around the globe in a relaxed, festive atmosphere with drinks, light bites, and live entertainment at The Fitzgerald, Mirrorball Gallery, and The Livery Pourhouse!

Whether you're here to swap stories, spark collaborations, or simply unwind after a day of screenings, this event is a festival favorite — and not to be missed!

***Food and Drinks for sale**

VENUES

The Fitzgerald, Mirrorball Gallery, The Livery Pourhouse on Pacolet St, Tryon

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>



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**Sharky's Sports Bar & Grill
5800 Duraleigh Rd.
Raleigh**



TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA EXPERIENCE SATURDAY, OCT 11

6 PM - 9 PM

Raise a glass with Tito's
Handmade Vodka!

Step into a lively night of music, craft cocktails, and creative energy as filmmakers, artists, and guests come together to celebrate. Sip signature Tito's drinks, enjoy vibrant entertainment, and connect with storytellers from around the world in an unforgettable setting. This is more than a party—it's the heart of the festival spirit, served with Tito's flair.

VENUE

The Fitzgerald | 69 Pacolet St

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>





**WORLD PREMIERE
CHRISTMAS IN MISTLETOE
SATURDAY, OCT 11**

5 PM + 8 PM



Filmed right here in Tryon, NC with regional and local talent, the movie shines a spotlight on many of Tryon's most iconic locations. Experience the magic on the big screen at the historic Tryon Theatre — where much of the film was shot — and enjoy a red carpet evening with the cast and crew.



VENUE

**Tryon Theatre
45 S Trade St, Tryon, NC**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>





BRUNCH WITH A FILMMAKER SUNDAY, OCT 12

9 AM - 11 AM

****For VIP Passholders, Sponsors, and Filmmakers**
Join us for an intimate and inspiring brunch where you'll have the unique opportunity to sit down with a featured filmmaker. Share stories, ask questions, and gain insider insights into the creative process, challenges, and triumphs of filmmaking. This relaxed, conversational setting is perfect for building connections and fueling your passion for storytelling—one delicious bite at a time.

VENUE

The Greenlife Inn at the Mimosa
65 Mimosa Inn Dr, Tryon

RSVP

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>

Funding provided by the Mary
F. Kessler Fund at the Polk
County Community Foundation





**COFFEE + CONVERSATIONS
WITH JAZELLE FOSTER
SUNDAY, OCT 12**

Creatives
MEET MARKETING

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Brand Stories + Marketing

**What are the stories you
want to be known for, and
how do you use them in your
marketing?**

**This will be a hands-on
session, with participants
doing real work and sharing.**

***Jazelle Foster built Creatives
Meet Marketing after
experiencing the disconnect
between traditional
marketing advice and the
reality of creative businesses.***

VENUE

**The Greenlife Inn at the Mimosa
65 Mimosa Inn Dr, Tryon**

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>

**Funding provided by the Mary
F. Kessler Fund at the Polk
County Community Foundation**



SCREENINGS SUNDAY, OCT 12

TRYON THEATRE | 45 S TRADE ST.

11 AM | THE ADDICTION OF HOPE

1:30 PM | SEGAL

4 PM | One Must Wash Eyes

6 PM | Iron Pearls



TFAC - VEH STAGE | 34 MELROSE AVE

11 AM Echoes of Loss: Eight Days in Israel

**1 PM | Better Together: Furman's
Championship**

3 PM | Horses and the Science of Harmony

5 PM | Dale





The Encore You're Waiting For



93^{PTS}

Editor's Choice
WINEENTHUSIAST

April 2024

2022 Director's Cut
Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

90^{PTS}

WINEENTHUSIAST

June/July 2023

2020 Director's Cut
Alexander Valley
Cabernet Sauvignon

91^{PTS}

Editor's Choice
WINEENTHUSIAST

December 2023

2022 Director's Cut
Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

FrancisFordCoppolaWinery.com

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SCREENINGS

SUNDAY, OCT 12

TFAC - PAVILION | 34 MELROSE AVE

12 PM | SHORT DRAMATIC BLOCK H - (108:44) +
Q&A

N.U.B., 47, Cost of Joy, Thrive, Devil's Playground,
Dad's Last Beach Trip, The Solution

2:30 PM | SHORT DRAMATIC BLOCK J - (76:09) +
Q&A

Bwinky's Little Big World of Love, Dobrina, The
Watcher, An Unbridled Event, The Night Rambler,
Obedient Hand of a Martyr, Behind Closed Doors

4:15 PM | SHORT DRAMATIC BLOCK K - (83:49) +
Q&A

On Paper, Howard, My Last Martini, interioorem
pueri, Hearts Of Stone

THE DEPOT | 22 DEPOT ST

12:30 PM | Short Dramatic Block I - (72:24) + Q&A
The Crawfish Dance, (+33), Solo Trip, Crane, The
Third Dream, Distant Shore





**CONVERSATIONS ABOUT
DOCUMENTARIES
WITH JEFF LIEBERMAN +
E. VINCENT MARTINEZ
SUNDAY, OCT 12**

3 PM - 4 PM

Step inside the world of documentary filmmaking with two powerhouse storytellers! Join festival judges Jeff — acclaimed for *Bella!* and *The Amazing Nina Simone* — and Vincent, whose moving film *Iron Pearls* screens later on Sunday. Together, they'll share insights, behind-the-scenes stories, and their unique perspectives on the art of capturing real life on screen.

VENUE

**The Depot
22 Depot St, Tryon**

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:

<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>

**Funding provided by the Mary
F. Kessler Fund at the Polk
County Community Foundation**





AWARDS CEREMONY SUNDAY, OCT 12

7 PM

Celebrate the outstanding talent and creativity showcased at the Tryon International Film Festival during our Awards Ceremony. Join filmmakers, industry professionals, and film enthusiasts for an elegant evening honoring the best in storytelling, directing, acting, and technical achievement. Experience the excitement as winners are announced and trophies are presented, marking the culmination of a vibrant festival weekend.

VENUE


Tryon Theatre
45 S Trade St, Tryon

FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP:





<https://www.tryoninternationalfilmfestival.org/attendthefestival>



 **Committed to Green Living** 

Our Amenities

- Each room has:
 - Private bathroom
 - Walk-in closet
 - Refrigerator/freezer
 - Grind-n-brew single cup coffee maker
 - Fiber Optic powered Wifi
 - Internet TV
 - Hair dryers, hangers, all the essentials
- Luxury Linens: All linens, including duvet covers and shams, are laundered every day to ensure complete freshness for our guests.
- Continental+Plus Breakfast
- Convenient, Lighted Parking on Property

-  Gracious, Updated Guest Rooms
-  Fully-equipped Extended-Stay Suites
-  Indoor and Outdoor Gathering Areas
-  Event / Conference / Corporate Retreat



B&B Innkeepers

Mary and Kevin Parker

65 Mimosa Inn Drive, Tryon, NC 28782

www.GreenLifeInn.com

828-436-0097

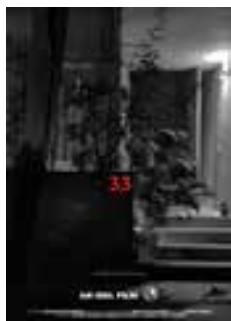


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Canchas - A dermatologist who chose to volunteer to work in the Covid unit during the Madrid lockdown, isolates herself from her family to keep them safe and leans onto her faith as she witnesses the threat of the pandemic during an exhausting day fighting the virus.



Candidate 33 - A young man lives in fear of an unknown entity, one capable of unspeakable things. His only hope of survival? Avoid the darkness.



DING! - When a pair of unsuspecting students get trapped in a malfunctioning elevator, their banter over love, life, and lost friendships eventually spirals into chaos.



Drafting - A student struggles to craft the perfect email to his teacher.



Fallen - a confessional letter, she pieces together the memories that shaped her emotions — and the newfound feelings she never fully understood.



Mrs. Tireseas - Mrs. Tireseas wakes up one day, and realizes her husband has turned into a woman.



Off the Rails - A middle-aged man has spent 30 faithful years working at the same company—until one day, he's abruptly laid off. As he struggles to find a new job, reality proves harsher than expected. Eventually, he ends up working as a temporary bus driver.

At first, he greets passengers with a smile and does his best to stay optimistic. But the irregular hours, relentless demands, and mounting pressure begin to wear him down. Exhausted, he gets into an accident—only to be blamed entirely by the company. Complaints pile up. One night, he receives a text: he's been fired. Alone in his empty bus, packing up his things, he suddenly stops. Instead of going

home, he starts the engine and takes the bus on a road he's never taken before—off his usual route. Is he running away?

Or finally choosing a different path for himself?



Pages of Promise

- In the harrowing trenches of war, 17-year-old Ethan clings to the memory of Charlotte, the girl he met in a dance class. As the war rages on, these memories become his lifeline - a beacon of hope amidst the darkness. With

the end of the war in sight, Ethan races against time to return home to his dearest Charlotte.



Second Chance

- An inspired young filmmaker who witnessed a disturbing incident at school looks inside Juvenile Hall and Court, through the moving account of a juvenile offender and his parents, as well as the insights of the

judge, attorneys and probation officer. Second Chance takes a step towards better understanding, compassion and ultimately, hope for juveniles who are some of the most vulnerable in our society, and who are also part of its future.



The Darkest Stroke of Midnight

- An obsessed stalker spends every night prowling the streets, monitoring those around him. One evening, he makes a discovery that drives him to the brink of insanity.



The Language Of The Universe

- In the dirt it shall be found.



The Painter - After the untimely death of her mother, Casey Miller inherits a painting of a lone cabin in a secluded forest. Casey becomes increasingly distressed as

she begins to notice subtle changes appearing in the painting—unsure if they're real or creations of her mind— while a sinister presence closes in on her.



The Watchman - In his first big case, a rookie investigator is lured into a dangerous game of cat and mouse with a mysterious figure named "E.P.," where every lead he follows takes him closer to a shocking truth.



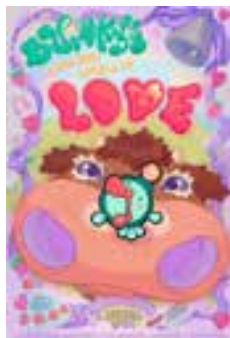
NIGHTOWLIRONWORKS.COM



PROUD
CREATOR OF
TRIFF24 AWARD



ANIMATED SHORT FILMS



Bwinky's Little Big World of Love

- Bwinky happens upon earth and while exploring he comes across a cow... The Most Beautiful Bovine. As their connection grows we get a look into her impending fate of which she is

resigned to. Bwinky attempts to save her, and with some alien magic and love they launch into space and newfound freedom.



Dobrina - Lotte Reiniger meets Sergio Leone in this animated short, where desire burns as bright as the desert sun. A brand-new animated short premiering in June 2025 - with all premiere statuses still available - except world premiere.



The Crawfish Dance - Crawfish dance themselves in and out of trouble.

Back Alley Boutique & Bud Bar

RETAIL
DOWNSTAIRS

BUD BAR
UPSTAIRS



✿ Cannabis consumption lounge on-site ✿

SUN-THUR 11:30-6:30

FRI-SAT 11AM-8PM

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OPEN DAILY



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SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILMS



2 Miles to Freedom - This is the story of Billy Lister and his journey from 17-year-old

stroke "victim" to a Paralympic cyclist. In spite of his setbacks, and through his determination and associations with people that help along the way, he discovers sport and enters the CAF 620-mile ride down the California coast. On Day 3, Billy, on the verge of quitting, meets up with basketball Hall of Famer Bill Walton, also a challenged athlete, on a grueling uphill ride out of Big Sur, and their ride together for the next two miles changes both lives.



2025 USPA Women's Open Polo Championship

- Great 10-minute video featuring the best women polo players in the world.



The 2025 Women's US Polo Association Open Championship was played on Field #1 at the National Polo Center in Wellington Florida on Sunday, February 9th. It pitted the two best teams having survived a round-robin competition of six 22-Goal teams with the best female players. Last year's 2024 Championship Team Buena Vibra defended its Title against the previous 2023 Champion La Fe-Eastern Hay. The match was a nail-biter, and the results made history!! DrB aka HorseDoc® 'Talking Horses'® WuzUpDoc® Media



2025 WEF-Fidelity \$385,000 Grand Prix at Wellington International



- Great 16-minute live action full-coverage video. The 2025 Winter Equestrian Festival Grand Prix Sponsored by Fidelity Investments took place on Saturday night,

February 8th at the Wellington International Show Grounds. It was a spectacular event with 40 top international show-jump riders competing for \$385,000 of Prize Money plus points toward their World Class Rankings and future Olympic Competition potential. Eleven of the World's Top 20 International Athletes advanced beyond the 1st Round of Competition on a challenging course created by 2024 Paris Olympic Games designer Gregory Bodo from France. Many Olympic athletes competed including Germany's current Paris Gold Medalist Christian Kukuk, Sweden's 1st World Ranked Henrik Von Eckermann, US Silver Medal Olympian and 3rd World Ranked Kent Farrington, US multi-Medal Olympian and Hall of Fame Inductee Laura Kraut, and many other accomplished contestants. We interviewed several of the prominent riders and the final winning Jump-Off action came down to a nail-biting difference of 0.34 seconds. Watch and enjoy the excitement. DrB aka HorseDoc® 'Talking Horses'®.



A Mind Like Still Water

- Two women's lives are irrevocably changed when they attend a world-renowned horse clinic.



'BraveHearts' 2024 NYC City 9/11 & Veterans Day Tribute Ride

- On Saturday, September 28, 2024, BraveHearts sponsored a 20-mile mounted ride through New York City. The "Trail to Zero" course began and circled



back to end at ground Zero at the site of the former "Twin Towers", now replaced by the "Freedom Tower". The historical ride was attended by multiple



Equestrian Film



SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILMS

mounted agencies to bring attention to the approximate 20 veterans each day who commit suicide and would otherwise benefit from equine therapy.

Rest stops were made at two Firehouses, Central Park, and Times Square which allowed throngs of amazed and cheering New Yorkers to show their support. This heartwarming 41-minute tribute video broadcast is available on YouTube: www.youtube.com/lihorsedoc/videos.

We encourage this video be shared with anyone interested in helping our veterans in need.

Best- DrB aka HorseDoc® 'Talking Horses' WuzUpDoc Media.



Douwe the Friesian - A short documentary celebrating the life of Douwe the Friesian and his owner Sandra Bealieu, a creative equestrian specializing in dressage, musical freestyle and equine art.



EVOKE - Once an integral part of society and ultimately cast out on to the land, the

modern day mustang battles overpopulation, starvation, mistreatment, capture, and slaughter. Peter spent three days traveling through Colorado and New Mexico with several trainers from Great Escape Mustang Collaborative as they incorporate this American Icon into domestic life. Peter found a culture of perseverance and individuality facing the complex issue of feral horses in the US.



Horses & Humans Research Foundation: Research with a Purpose - This documentary delves into the profound bond between humans and horses, exploring the transformative effects



of equine-assisted services through the voices of leading researchers, practitioners, and therapists. It highlights the critical role of research in understanding and enhancing these interactions, showcasing the groundbreaking work supported by the Horses & Humans Research Foundation (HHRF). Through in-depth interviews, the film reveals how HHRF's dedication to rigorous research is advancing the field, ensuring the well-being of both horses and humans, and solidifying the foundation's importance in shaping the future of equine-assisted services.



Jockeys & Jeans Benefit at Gulfstream Park 1/10-11/25 - Dozens of world-class jockeys congregated at Gulfstream Park Racetrack on January 10th & 11th to attend the Jockeys and Jeans



Fundraiser to benefit the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund. Many Hall-of-Fame and Legendary jockeys were joined by several actively racing super-star jockeys, and numerous disabled jockeys who benefit from the non-profit foundation support. There was a meet and greet and memorabilia signing with all jockeys. Attendance to an afternoon buffet and dining with the jockeys was provided, followed by an auction of valuable memorabilia. Special guests included 'Little Anthony' of the Imperials and Joseph R. Gannascoli of Sopranos 'Gayfella' fame. The day concluded with a race in honor of



SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILMS

the event and a generous donation was made by Gulfstream's 1st Racing in the Winners Circle. Many Sponsors supported a great cause. This was the largest collection ever of Hall of Fame and Legendary jockeys in one place at one time. DrB aka HorseDoc® 'Talking Horses'.

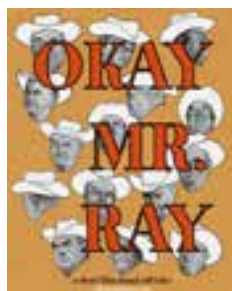


My Life Between The Reins, Music Video

- This is the original music video and theme song written for the film, My Life Between The Reins, an inspirational feature documentary of a young girl with cerebral palsy and



her equestrian journey through adulthood as she faces challenges with the help of her family, faith, persistence, and determination to follow her goals & dreams.



Okay, Mr. Ray! - No

one could spin a yarn to make a sale like Ray Lum. Twenty years after their initial meeting, Bill Ferris returned home to Mississippi in the early '70s with a camera.

The result reveals a look back at the colorful

rhythms of Ray's life—at home, at the auction, joking with strangers outside country stores—and provides a glimpse at Southern manhood, friendship and loss. Now nearly Ray's age when they first filmed, Ferris has become a Grammy Award winning documentarian and renowned folklorist.

Using never before seen 16mm footage and new animations, OKAY, MR. RAY is a short documentary film about how even the tallest tales help us keep the memory alive of the ones we love.



Portrait of a Seaweed Farmer: Ana Borrero, PhD

- Follow a Spanish marine scientist who leaves behind a high-stress academic career to cultivate something far more sustainable—

seaweed and a life in balance. Now working in coastal Norway, Ana channels her scientific expertise into growing an industry poised to combat climate change through regenerative farming. With humor, heart, and humility, Ana reflects on her journey from a microscope-loving child to working mother of two, driven by both environmental urgency and a desire to be present for her young family. A deeply personal look at how one woman found meaning, and a future, beneath the surface. This film is part of a series funded by a grant from World Wildlife Fund, created to spotlight individuals leading the charge in ocean restoration and sustainable livelihoods. The two other films in the series are available to screen as well.



Refabricate -

"Refabricate" is an experimental documentary about sustainable fashion innovation in & around the Raleigh/Durham area in North Carolina. The documentary explores the topics of

circular economy and accessibility within sustainable fashion.



Renegade—Born to be Wild - Across the vast, arid landscapes of the American West, wild Mustangs stand as enduring symbols of freedom and resilience. Renegade tells the story of one such horse—captured at the age of 13 during a Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

roundup meant to save Mustangs from drought-stricken land. While most older horses are quickly returned to the wild, Renegade remained in captivity, his fate uncertain. Could a horse who lived free for 13 years break from his wild instincts and learn to join the human herd? The 23-minute documentary follows renowned Mustang trainer Jeff Cook as he takes on the challenge of earning Renegade's trust. Through quiet observation, patience, and respect, Jeff attempts to bridge the vast gap between untamed spirit and human connection. Renegade is a story of transformation—for both horse and trainer—and a meditation on what it truly means to protect something wild.



Searching for Simorgh - Set in Montgomery, Alabama—a city shaped by both the Confederacy and the Civil Rights Movement—the film follows renowned French street art duo MonkeyBird as they partner with

Alabama artists to create public art inspired by the 12th-century Persian poem, Conference of the Birds. The film explores why art matters, how the meaning of home takes shape, and how we're all part of a shared human journey.



The Horses of No Man's Land - In the enchanting wilderness of Louisiana, a woman embarks on a courageous mission to rescue and protect the endangered wild horses that roam the vast pine forests. Drawn

to their majestic beauty and fascinated by the untold stories they carry, she becomes determined to shed light on the history of these magnificent creatures and the mystical place they call home.



The Rewilders - The western world has long equated survival with conquering the wild. But now more than ever, humanity's survival depends upon co-existence with the wild. Since 1970, the planet has lost 60% of its

biodiversity. The most dire consequences are accelerated global warming and a potential mass extinction event affecting millions of plant and animal species. But there is a nascent solution gaining ground: rewinding the planet.

Exploring the restoration of iconic species like jaguar, elephant, bison and Pacific salmon, The Rewilders is an intimate, visually spectacular short documentary that tells the tale of pioneering conservationists on three continents, working tirelessly as they galvanize the global movement of rewinding, one animal and landscape at a time.





SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILMS



The Rise of Checker 47

- Tune into our conversation with Checker's pilot, Christian Kukuk, and his



groom, Sofie Karlsson, to hear about his journey to the 5* stage and his record year, including their 2024 Rolex Grand Prix win, gold medal performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics, and everything else that makes Checker 47 one of a kind.



Ursel:

The Little Mare -

A documentary about a family's Friesian mare and their relationship with each other as she is preparing for the Keuring, an inspection of the Friesian breed.



Where's My Coffee Cup?

At 64 and still in prison, John must navigate trauma and aging in a space that is not designed for a geriatric population. Like others, he faces the challenges of stairs, top bunks, food

that is not made for human consumption, timely and adequate health care, and the everyday risks of violence and exploitation. John's story is a call and a demand for compassion and justice.

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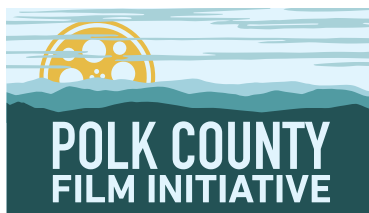
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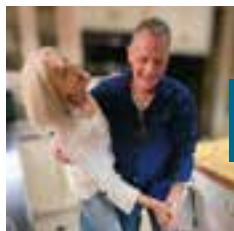
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