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GREENWICH International Film Festival ™

JUNE 1-4, 2017

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Founded in 2014, the sole purpose of ALS Finding a Cure is funding research to find a cure for this devastating disease. To break down barriers to finding that cure, we support collaborative, innovative science through partnerships that include General Electric, ALS Association and ANSWER ALS. General Electric Healthcare, a primary collaborator, has developed breakthrough technology to better understand the brain and spinal cord. As a partner, we utilize their technology and findings to better understand ALS and accelerate therapy development. Our team of researchers is led by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Merit Cudkowicz and overseen by president Peter N. Foss. ALS Finding a Cure is a program of the Leandro P. Rizzuto Foundation and we are proud to report that 100% of donations go directly to funding research. Our program is inspired by, and a tribute to, Christie Rizzuto. Diagnosed with ALS in 2009 at the age of 41, it is Christie, and the many others like her, who drive our work.

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Film
Finance
Philanthropy

We applaud the Greenwich International Film Festival for supporting the gifted artists who use film to create positive change.

J.P. Morgan
Festival Details

**Passes and Tickets**

Please visit [www.greenwichfilm.org](http://www.greenwichfilm.org) for ticket information and a current schedule of events. Purchase passes and event tickets online or at our Box Office.

**How to Purchase Passes and Tickets**

- **Website:** [www.greenwichfilm.org/boxoffice](http://www.greenwichfilm.org/boxoffice)
- **Box Office:** 22 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **Box Office Hours:** Monday-Saturday 11-6:00PM Sunday: 12-4:00PM
- **Box Office Telephone:** 203-869-1609

**Admission for Passholder vs. Ticket Holders**

Passholders are required to wear their badge at the entrance of all Festival events. Ticket holders must present their printed tickets at the entrance to each Festival event.

**Film, Panel and Party Locations**

**Film Screening Locations**

- **Bow Tie Cinemas, Theaters 1–3:** 2 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **Cole Auditorium at Greenwich Library:** 101 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **The Avon Theatre:** 272 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT 06901

**Panels & Workshop Locations**

- **Cole Auditorium at Greenwich Library:** 101 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **Greenwich Arts Council:** 299 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **Indian Harbor Yacht Club:** 710 Steamboat Road, Greenwich, CT 06830

**Party Locations**

- **Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich:** 4 Horseneck Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **Betteridge:** 239 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **Gabriele’s Steak House:** 35 Church Street, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **J House Greenwich:** 1114 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06878
- **L’escale Restaurant & Bar:** 500 Steamboat Road, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **Perfect Provenance:** 47 Arch Street, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **Sweaty Betty:** 200 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **Theory:** 396 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830

**Getting There & Parking**

- **Interstate-95 North and South,** Exit-3 - Arch St.
- **Metro-North Railroad** - Schedules & Tickets: [www.mta.info/mnr](http://www.mta.info/mnr)

Select Passholders are granted one complimentary VIP festival parking pass. Additional parking:

- **Island Beach Parking Lot:** Across from 100 Arch Street
- **Horseneck Parking Lot:** Horseneck Lane
- **Arch Street and Sound View Drive Parking Lot**

**Accommodations**

- **Delamar Greenwich Harbor:** (203) 661-9800 | 500 Steamboat Road, Greenwich, CT 06830
- **J House Greenwich:** (203) 698-6980 | 1114 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06878
- **Hilton Stamford Hotel:** (203) 967-2222 | 1 First Stamford Place, Stamford, CT 06902

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- [greenwichfilm](https://www.greenwichfilm.org)
- [makeanimpact](https://www.makeanimpact.org)
- [giff2017](https://www.giff2017.com)
Dear GIFF supporters, film lovers, community activists, staff and volunteers, welcome to the third annual Greenwich International Film Festival. I am incredibly excited about this year’s program and our charity partners.

The year started out with a great opportunity for us to show GIFF’s ability to GIVE back and highlight the great work happening here in our own backyard on NBC’s show GIVE. We sent our good friend and GIFF Board Member Mark Teixeira to Family Centers and Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital to highlight the incredible work they are doing for so many in our community. Filming was a GIFF family affair; the Emmy-winning show is produced by GIFF Board Member Bobby Friedman, hosted by our own Jenna Bush Hager and featured Mark as GIFF’s celebrity ambassador. A big thank you to the whole GIVE team for this opportunity.

We have hosted several fabulous pre-screenings throughout the year for the community including ARRIVAL, JACKIE, 20TH CENTURY WOMEN and CARRIE PILBY.

The slate of films for 2017 is remarkable. The Programming Team has done an excellent job curating a line-up that will inform and inspire.

Our Opening Night Party on Friday, June 2nd will feature Sophia Bush as head of our Social Impact Jury followed by a concert with Flo Rida, an evening which will not disappoint!

I am particularly excited for this year’s Changemaker Gala on June 1st, where we will honor Christy Turlington Burns for her work with Every Mother Counts and Renée Zellweger for raising funds and awareness for those afflicted with ALS. New this year, we will be honoring a Community Changemaker, Andrew Niblock. Andrew is the Head of the Lower School of Greenwich Country Day and was recently diagnosed with ALS. He is inspiring our children and the entire community by confronting this disease head on and by doing all he can to help others in the process.

There is great hope on the ALS front thanks to the incredible work of an organization called ALS Finding a Cure. I am excited that many of the nation’s top doctors and ALS researchers will be in attendance at the gala on June 1st.

Thank you to all who have helped make GIFF a reality! Because of you, we are able to present the community with 80 events over the course of the Festival weekend and host year round screenings. I am thrilled to announce that by the end of this season we will have raised more than $300,000 for charity partners and awarded $100,000 for filmmakers.

Let’s continue to Make an Impact together!

All the Best, Wendy

A Note from the Chairman of the Board

by Wendy Stapleton Reyes
Founder/Chairman of the Board
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8. The Perfect Provenance
47 Arch St. | (203) 900-1131

9. Theory
396 Greenwich Ave. | (203) 422-0020

10. Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas
2 Railroad Ave. | (203) 869-3121
11. GIFF Box Office  
22 Railroad Ave. | (203) 869-1609

12. Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich  
4 Horseneck Ln. | (203) 869-3224

13. L’escale Restaurant  
500 Steamboat Rd. | (203) 661-4600

14. Indian Harbor Yacht Club  
710 Steamboat Rd. | (203) 869-2484

KEY

بشرة: Off Map

سحاب: Parking
Brought to you by those who drink it
Greetings GIFF Friends and Family,

It is hard to believe that another year has passed by so quickly and that we are already on our third edition of this Festival. It has been another whirlwind of a year with new staff members, travel, excitement, and lots of great movies! Sam Kleiner, our new Programmer Extraordinaire, joined the team after several years of working in film publicity. He has been a wonderful addition to GIFF and we’ve been having so much fun putting together this fantastic line-up of films and panels for you.

In an effort to continue our year-round programming, we had the pleasure of holding several complimentary advance screenings for our community in the Fall and Winter which included Arrival, Jackie, 20th Century Women, and Carrie Pilby at Bow Tie Cinemas and The Avon Theatre. After screening hundreds of submissions, the programming team traveled to Sundance in search of the best of the best in filmmaking on the festival circuit. In March, our team spent a week at SXSW curating films to round out what has shaped into a program that we are tremendously proud of and excited to share with the community.

Our 2017 Festival slogan is “Make an Impact”— and that we have. By the end of this Festival, we will have awarded $100,000 to filmmakers. Additionally, over half of our slate is comprised of films that have social impact. In order to achieve a delicate balance and cohesive line-up of films in our slate each year, we have to give careful consideration to programming films that share diverse stories from around the world. We are thrilled that 16 countries are represented in the 2017 program which include the United States, Mexico, Cuba, Ireland, Croatia, Israel, Denmark, Austria, Germany, France, Norway, Algeria, Poland, Sweden, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to say that we’ve raised the bar this year with our unbelievable Opening Night Film, Bending the Arc, directed by Kief Davidson and Pedro Kos. Bending the Arc is a powerful and moving documentary feature which chronicles the team of doctors and activists whose work thirty years ago to save lives in a rural Haitian village grew into a global battle in the halls of power for health equity for all. Following this spectacular film, will be a Q&A moderated by Global Health Corps Founder, Barbara Pierce Bush, and will include panelists, Ophelia Dahl and Joia Mukherjee of Partners in Health, Dr. Rifat Latifi of WMC Health Network, and Writer/Producer, Cori Stern, who will be discussing the state of global healthcare.

We also have the pleasure of sharing with you our two Centerpiece Films in our line-up. From first-time feature director and Emmy-nominated Australian filmmaker, Jessica Thompson, comes The Light of the Moon - a poignant and captivating film starring Stephanie Beatriz. Beatriz gives a powerful and moving performance as Bonnie, a woman who maintains her dignity and sense of humor as she deals with the aftermath of a sexual assault. The Light of the Moon is a powerful reminder of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of a tragedy. Following the screening, will be a Town Hall to discuss global rape culture and how we can use film and media to help stop the objectification of women.

Our second Centerpiece Film is Charged: The Eduardo Garcia Story which follows the life of chef, Eduardo Garcia, whose body was jolted by 2400 volts of electricity in a bizarre backcountry accident in Montana. When his career as a highly respected chef and outdoorsman comes to a sudden halt, he is forced to face the complicated relationships he has with his family and friends. Charged is a survivor story about the strength of a man, his family, and his friends. Above all, it is a story about finding one’s best self in order to live a full life—one that is truly charged.

Our documentary and narrative line-up of shorts and feature films is stellar this year as well. Our films explore subject matter from mental illness, global health, racial injustice, and bullying, to labor rights, freedom of press, censorship, rape culture, the refugee crisis, international relations, poverty, maternal health, holocaust remembrance, genocide awareness, animal conservation, environmental protection, disabilities, female empowerment, and forced migration.

In addition to our beautiful and inspiring films, our panels include, THE FILM REVIEW: An Inside look at the Formidable Responsibility of a Film Critic, LIVE FROM CT: A Conversation with SNL Writers, WOMEN DRIVING ROI IN THE FILM MARKETPLACE, and PRODUCING SPORTS: ESPN 30 for 30’s Mike and The Mad Dog screening followed by an insightful panel with leaders in sports entertainment.

We hope that you enjoy the program and connect with the stories of our filmmakers and panelists as much as we have over the past 9 months. We anticipate that they will inspire change in the world, that you will walk away with a shift in perspective and a new sense of awareness about the struggles that people face on a global level.

Sam and I thank the GIFF team for their patience and support, our fantastic Jury of entertainment professionals for their time and efforts in helping us select the winners of each competitive category, our Pre-screening Committee and our interns who spent thousands of hours of their time reviewing and rating films, our families, and all of you, who have trusted our taste and taken a leap with us.

Enjoy the shows!
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**5 DOCTORS**

USA // 92 mins // Comedy

Convinced that he’s dying from a bizarre array of symptoms, struggling comedian Spencer Kaminsky returns home to visit his five childhood doctors in a single day, all while desperately trying to avoid the friends and family that he left behind.

**A BAD IDEA GONE WRONG**

USA // 85 mins // Comedy

A comedy about two would-be thieves who accidentally arm the alarm system and have to break out of the house they just broke into. When they discover an unexpected housesitter, they suddenly have to deal with a hostage situation, double crosses, sexual tensions, and discoveries that make their difficult escape even more dubious.

**BEACH RATS**

USA // 95 mins // Drama

An aimless teenager on the outer edges of Brooklyn struggles to escape his bleak home life and navigate questions of self-identity, as he balances his time between his delinquent friends, a potential new girlfriend, and older men he meets online.
BLAME
USA // 100 mins // Drama

It’s the start of a new year at a small suburban high school—Abigail (Quinn Shephard) is an eternal outcast returning for the first time after a mysterious event the previous year. Facing constant bullying, Abigail escapes from her hostile surroundings by immersing herself in the worlds of the characters she reads about, much to the amusement of her manipulative classmate, Melissa (Nadia Alexander). When the girls’ intriguing new drama teacher Jeremy (Chris Messina) announces Arthur Miller’s “The Crucible” as their fall show, and casts Abigail over Melissa in the starring role, Abigail’s confidence blooms — but soon her relationship with Jeremy begins to move beyond the fantasy world she’s constructed. This taboo bond strikes a nerve in Melissa, fueling a vengeful jealousy that quickly spirals out of control — and brings about a chain of events that draws even further parallels to the madness of Salem…

Quinn Shephard

Director: Quinn Shephard
Screenwriter: Quinn Shephard
Producers: Laurie Shephard, Quinn Shephard
Editor: Quinn Shephard
Key Cast: Chris Messina, Quinn Shephard, Nadia Alexander, Tate Donovan, Trieste Kelly Dunn, Tessa Albertson
Dir. of Photography: Aaron Kovalchik

6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 2 | 3:45PM*
6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 2 | 3:45PM

Q&A with Quinn Shephard (Director), Nadia Alexander (Cast), and Laurie Shephard (Producer)
*Reception following at Theory on 396 Greenwich Ave.

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MOVIE
USA // 89 mins
Comedy/Animation

Based on the worldwide sensation and bestselling book series, and boasting an A-list cast of comedy superstars headed by Kevin Hart and Ed Helms, DreamWorks Animation brings audiences the long-awaited global movie event, CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MOVIE. This raucously subversive comedy for the entire family tells the story of two overly imaginative pranksters named George and Harold, who hypnotize their principal into thinking he’s a ridiculously enthusiastic, incredibly dimwitted superhero named Captain Underpants.

David Soren

Director: David Soren
Screenwriter: Dav Pilkey (book), Nicholas Stoller (screenplay)
Producers: Mireille Soria, Mark Swift
Key Cast: Jordan Peele, Kevin Hart, Kristen Schaal, Nick Kroll, Ed Helms

6/1 | Bow Tie – Theater 1 | 4:30PM
Q&A and Book Signing with author Dav Pilkey following the screening at GIFF Box Office, 22 Railroad Ave.

DAYVEON
USA // 75 mins // Drama

In the wake of his older brother’s death, 13-year-old Dayveon spends the sweltering summer days roaming his rural Arkansas town. When he falls in with a local gang, he becomes drawn to the camaraderie and violence of their world.

Amman Abbasi

Director: Amman Abbasi
Screenwriters: Amman Abbasi, Steven Reneau
Producers: Amman Abbasi, Lachion Buckingham, Alexander Uhlmann
Editors: Michael Carter, Dominic LaPerriere
Key Cast: Devin Blackmon, Dontrell Bright, Lachion Buckingham, Kordell Johnson
Dir. of Photography: Dustin Lane

6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 2 | 3:45PM*
6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 2 | 3:45PM

Greenwich International Film Festival // 23
**FITS AND STARTS**

USA // 80 mins // Comedy

David Warwik is a struggling writer who has been toiling away at the same novel for years. His wife Jennifer is a hot young literary figure, who has just released a critically acclaimed work. When her publisher invites the couple to an artists’ salon at his home in Connecticut, the pair embark on a twisted journey, and David must face his demons and try to “not be weird” among the waspy salon guests and competitive art set in attendance. He encounters a dentist with publishing aspirations, a book critic full of condescending advice, a fellow writer who may know his wife a little too well, an old “friend,” and a high powered bipolar literary agent who just might be able to help him...for a price.

**GORAN**

CROATIA // 86 mins // Drama

*VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED

Goran just wants to drive his taxi and take care of his beautiful wife, Lina. Unfortunately, the people closest to him have their own agendas which threaten his carefree existence. In the idyllic surroundings of the snow-covered Croatian mountainside, the fiery personalities of the highlanders surface and collide.

**THE HERO** — PRESENTED BY —

HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY

USA // 93 mins

Comedy/Drama

THE HERO stars the legendary Sam Elliott as an aging actor confronting mortality in the moving new film from writer/director Brett Haley (I’ll See You in My Dreams). Lee Hayden (Sam Elliott) is a Western icon with a golden voice, but his best performances are decades behind him. He spends his days reliving old glories and smoking too much weed with his former-co-star-turned-dealer, Jeremy (Nick Offerman), until a surprise cancer diagnosis brings his priorities into sharp focus. He soon strikes up an exciting, contentious relationship with stand-up comic Charlotte (Laura Prepon), and he attempts to reconnect with his estranged daughter, Lucy (Krysten Ritter), all while searching for one final role to cement his legacy. THE HERO is a beautiful and poignant celebration of life and the legacies we all leave behind.
**HOT SUMMER NIGHTS**

USA // 107 mins // Drama

American flags wave as fireworks light the sky — it’s 1991 in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and summer is in full swing. A lonely teenage boy is taken under the wing of the town rebel, falls in love with the prettiest girl in fifty miles, and gets entangled in a drug ring - all as the deadliest hurricane in New England history barrels towards the coast. This coming of age film marks the feature debut of writer/director Elijah Bynum.

**IT'S ONLY THE END OF THE WORLD**

CANADA // 100 mins // Drama

After 12 years of absence, a writer goes back to his hometown, planning on announcing his upcoming death to his family. As resentment soon rewrites the course of the afternoon, fits and feuds unfold, fueled by bitterness and fear, while all attempts of empathy are sabotaged by their incapacity to listen, and love.

**THE LIGHT OF THE MOON**

USA // 90 mins // Drama

Stephanie Beatriz (Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Short Term 12) gives a powerful and moving performance as Bonnie, a woman who maintains her dignity and sense of humor as she deals with the aftermath of a sexual assault. Written and directed by Emmy-nominated Australian filmmaker Jessica M. Thompson in her feature film debut, THE LIGHT OF THE MOON is a powerful reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of relationships in the face of a tragedy.

**Cast & crew in attendance for Q&A**

Jessica M. Thompson

Director: Jessica M. Thompson
Screenwriter: Jessica M. Thompson
Producers: Michael Cuomo, Darin Hallinan, Myriam Schroeter, Jessica M. Thompson, Carlo Velayo
Editor: Jessica M. Thompson
Key Cast: Stephanie Beatriz, Michael Stahl-David, Conrad Ricamora, Catherine Curtin
Dir. of Photography: Autumn Eakin

**Narrative Features**

6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 1 | 9:00 PM

Following this screening will be a Town Hall with principal cast, the director, producers, and Peg Cafferty, (Producer of India’s Daughter) to discuss global rape culture and how we can use film and media to help stop the objectification of women. Moderated by Leslie Coplin, Prevention and Outreach Coordinator of Domestic Abuse Services, YWCA

6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 1 | 1:00PM

6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 1 | 1:30PM

Cast & crew in attendance for Q&A
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**MEGAN LEAVEY**

USA // 120 mins // Drama

Directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite (Blackfish), MEGAN LEAVEY is based on the true life story of a young Marine Corporal (Kate Mara) whose unique discipline and bond with her military combat dog saved many lives during their deployment in Iraq. When she is assigned to clean up the K9 unit after a disciplinary hearing, Leavey identifies with a particularly aggressive dog, Rex, and is given the chance to train him. Over the course of their service, Megan and Rex completed more than 100 missions until an IED explosion injures them, putting their fate in jeopardy.

**MENASHE**

USA // 82 mins // Drama

Deep in the heart of New York’s ultra-orthodox Hasidic Jewish community, Menashe, a kind, hapless grocery store clerk, struggles to make ends meet and responsibly parent his young son, Rieven, following his wife Leah’s death. Tradition prohibits Menashe from raising his son alone, so Rieven’s strict uncle adopts him, leaving Menashe heartbroken. Meanwhile, though Menashe seems to bungle every challenge in his path, his rabbi grants him one special week with Rieven before Leah’s memorial. It’s his chance to prove himself a suitable man of faith and fatherhood, and restore respect among his doubters. Performed entirely in Yiddish, the colloquial language of the Hasidic community, MENASHE uses intimate, handheld camerawork to drop us inside and humanize a hermetically sealed world of black-hatted, working-class men debating in crowded shuls or seeking counsel in the rabbi’s library. And yet Menashe is in many ways an outsider in this tight-knit circle, as he bucks convention and ruffles feathers to stay true to himself.

**THE STRANGE ONES**

USA // 81 mins // Drama/Thriller

Mysterious events surround two travelers, seemingly brothers, as they make their way across a remote American landscape. On the surface all seems normal, but what appears to be a simple vacation soon gives way to a dark and complex web of secrets.

**6/4 | The Avon Theatre | 11:00AM**

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<th><strong>MENASHE</strong></th>
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<td>Director: Gabriela Cowperthwaite</td>
<td>Director: Joshua Z. Weinstein</td>
<td><strong>Directors:</strong> Christopher Radcliff, Lauren Wolkstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screenwriters: Pamela Gray, Annie Mumolo, Tim Lovestedt</td>
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<td>Producers: Mickey Liddell, Jennifer Monroe, Pete Shilaimon</td>
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<td><strong>Producers:</strong> Sébastien Aubert, Shani Geva, Zachary Luke Kislevitz, Kristen Konvitz, Noah Lang, Ben Pakman, Barbara Perry, Michael Prall, Eric Schultz, Daniela Taplin Lundberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor: Peter McNulty</td>
<td>Editor: Scott Cummings</td>
<td><strong>Editors:</strong> Christopher Radcliff, Lauren Wolkstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key Cast: Kate Mara, Tom Felton, Bradley Whitford, Ramon Rodriguez, Edie Falco, Will Patton, Common, Geraldine James, Marko Caka, Catherine Dyer, Corey Johnson, Sam Keeley, Miguel Gomez, Melina Matthews</td>
<td>Key Cast: Menashe Lustig</td>
<td><strong>Key Cast:</strong> Alex Pettyfer, James Freedson-Jackson, Emily Althaus, Gene Jones, Owen Campbell, Tobias Campbell, Marin Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dir. of Photography:</strong> Craig Braden</td>
<td><strong>Dir. of Photography:</strong> Yoni Brook, Joshua Z. Weinstein</td>
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Augie Nieto was known as “the Steve Jobs of the fitness industry”—the founder of LifeFitness and the first person to popularize LifeCycle in gyms across the country. He lived life in the fast lane—was in impeccable shape, tough, bullheaded, and devilishly handsome. At the age of 47, Augie and his wife, Lynne, his high school sweetheart, seemed to have it all—until their lives were turned upside down when he was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

AUGIE is the story of a man who, when faced with tragedy, teamed with his incredible wife and family to do everything in their power to find a cure for ALS. Their bravery encourages ALS patients and their families to never give up. Their love story is, quite simply, one of the most inspiring and beautiful you’ll ever see.

A powerful documentary about the extraordinary team of doctors and activists— including Paul Farmer, Jim Yong Kim, and Ophelia Dahl—whose work thirty years ago to save lives in a rural Haitian village grew into a global battle in the halls of power for the right to health for all. Epic, yet intimate, the film is a compelling argument for the power of collective and personal vision and will to turn the tide of history.

SYLVIO
USA // 80 mins // Comedy/Drama

This is the story of a small town gorilla, Sylvio, who is stuck in his job at a debt collection agency. Deep down he just wants to express himself with his hand puppet, Herbert Herpels, and his puppet show that highlights the quiet moments of life. He accidentally joins a local TV program and a series of on-air mishaps threaten to shatter his identity, sending him on a journey of self-discovery.

Kentucker Audley & Albert Birney

Directors: Kentucker Audley, Albert Birney
Screenwriters: Kentucker Audley, Albert Birney, Meghan Doherty
Producers: Meghan Doherty, Josh Polon
Editors: Kentucker Audley, Albert Birney
Key Cast: Sylvio Bernardi
Dir. of Photography: Eric Laplante

6/1 | Bow Tie – Theater 2 | 8:30PM
6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 5:30PM
Q&A with Meghan Doherty (Producer, Co-writer)

OPENING NIGHT FILM
Greenwich International Film Festival // 29
For years, Sonia Warshawski (90) has been an inspirational public speaker at schools and prisons, where her stories of surviving the Holocaust as a teenager have inspired countless people who once felt their own traumas would leave them broken forever. But when Sonia is served an eviction notice for her iconic tailor shop (in a dead mall), she’s confronted with an agonizing decision: either open up a new shop, or retire. For a woman who admits she stays busy “to keep the dark parts away”, facing retirement dredges up fears she’d long forgot she had, and her horrific past resurfaces. BIG SONIA explores what it means to be a survivor and how this affects families and generations. Will you let your trauma define you? Or will your past make you stronger?

Leah Warshawski, Todd Soliday

**Directors:** Leah Warshawski, Todd Soliday
**Producer:** Leah Warshawski
**Editor:** Doug Loviska
**Dir. of Photography:** Todd Soliday

**BIG SONIA**
USA // 93 mins

American dancer Bobbi Jene Smith has spent 10 years as the star of famous Israeli dance company Batsheva. She finally makes the difficult and life-altering decision to uproot her life and career to move back to the US. Bobbi first came to Israel at a young age. She’s spent the past decade under the tutelage of renowned choreographer Ohad Naharin, who radically shaped her personal life and professional work. The life-changing decision to leave is made all the more difficult considering her budding relationship with fellow dancer, Or Schraiber. Instead of allowing it to weigh her down, Bobbi uses the long separation from her home country as strength and as inspiration, allowing her to see her surroundings through a fresh lens. Back in San Francisco, she goes out on a limb and starts work on a solo choreography, channeling her experience into her work, and premieres a groundbreaking new piece. With a fly-on-the-wall approach, director Elvira Lind makes the viewer feel a part of Bobbi’s process as she hones and perfects her movements. This footage intermingles with the intimate portrayal of Bobbi and Or’s long-distance relationship. Bobbi’s natural grace and humility infuses every scene, making the film a mesmerizing and eye-opening experience.

**Elvira Lind**

**Director:** Elvira Lind
**Producers:** Julie E. Pedersen, Sara Stockmann
**Editor:** Adam Nielsen
**Dir. of Photography:** Elvira Lind

**BOBBI JENE**
USA // 95 mins

CHARGED: THE EDUARDO GARCIA STORY follows the life of celebrity chef, Eduardo Garcia whose body was jolted with 2400 volts of electricity in a bizarre backcountry accident in Montana. When his career as a highly respected chef and outdoorsman comes to a sudden halt as he fights for his life, he has to undergo 21 surgeries to get back on his feet. Halfway through his recovery, the doctors inform him that he is also suffering from testicular cancer and will have to undergo intensive chemotherapy. Physical survival is followed by emotional upheaval as he is forced to deal with his now changed relationships with his family and everyone else close to him. Most challenging is his relationship with his former girlfriend, whom he betrayed and whom, for reasons she does not even understand, becomes his primary caregiver. CHARGED is a survivor story about the resilience of a man, his family, and his closest, most complex friendships. Above all, it is a story about finding one’s best self in order to live a full life—one that is truly CHARGED.

**Director:** Phillip Baribeau
**Producer:** Phillip Baribeau
**Editor:** Tony Hale
**Dir. of Photography:** Manuel Garcia

**CHARGED: THE EDUARDO GARCIA STORY**
USA // 86 mins

6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 1 | 6:30PM
Q&A with Eduardo Garcia, Jennifer Jane, Philip Baribeau (Director), Dennis Aig (Producer), Teri Weinberg (Executive Producer) and Michael Strahan (Executive Producer) and moderated by Mark Lindsay

6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 12:00PM
Cast & crew in attendance for Q&A
CITY OF GHOSTS

USA // 90 mins
Language: Arabic

Directed, produced, and filmed by Academy Award-nominated, Emmy-winning filmmaker, and Connecticut native Matthew Heineman (Cartel Land, 2015 Sundance Film Festival Directing Award), CITY OF GHOSTS is a singularly powerful cinematic experience that is sure to shake audiences to their core as it elevates the canon of one of the most talented documentary filmmakers working today. Captivating in its immediacy, CITY OF GHOSTS follows the journey of “Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently” — a handful of anonymous activists who banded together after their homeland was taken over by ISIS in 2014. With astonishing, deeply personal access, this is the story of a brave group of citizen journalists as they face the realities of life undercover, on the run, and in exile, risking their lives to stand up against one of the greatest evils in the world today.

Dina is getting married in a few weeks and there is still so much to do. She has to move her boyfriend, Scott, from his parents’ house to her apartment and settle him into the second home he’s ever lived in, all while juggling his schedule as an early morning Walmart door greeter. She has to get her dress, confirm arrangements with the venue, and make peace with her family, who are nervous for Dina after the death of her first husband and the string of troubled relationships that followed. Throughout it all, in the face of obstacles large and small, Dina remains indomitable. She has overcome tragedy and found the man she wants and, at age 48, is bent on building the life for herself that she believes she deserves. Dina is unstoppable — a force of nature, and as the star of her own life story, she’s an unconventional movie protagonist the likes of which hasn’t been seen before in film.

Dolores

USA // 95 mins

In the copious volumes written about Cesar Chavez and how he formed the first farm workers’ union in America, there’s little mention of Dolores Huerta, although she was his equal partner and co-founder of the union. DOLORES sheds light on this enigmatic, intensely private woman who is among the most important yet little-known activists in American history. With unprecedented access to both Dolores and her children, the film reveals the raw, personal stories behind the public figure. It portrays a woman both heroic and flawed, working tirelessly for social change even as her eleven children longed to have her at home.
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B&T Gallo Winery
GIVE ME FUTURE

USA/CUBA // 85 mins
Language: English, Spanish

In March 2016, following the restoration of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States, electronic dance music trio Major Lazer made history, becoming one of the first major American acts to play in the communist state. Unsure how their descent on Havana would be received and hoping to reach a few tens of thousands, the epic concert unexpectedly drew in close to half a million fans. Much more than a garden variety music film, GIVE ME FUTURE begins as a behind-the-scenes look at the historic concert and evolves into a masterful exploration of Cuba’s inspirational youth movement and its ingenious DIY information culture. Capturing exhilarating performance footage and authentic stories highlighting the country’s cultural growth and desire for inclusion in the global community, director Austin Peters conjures a transcendent, rhythm-laced depiction of the powerful catalysts driving a country on the brink of change.

6/2 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 3:30PM
6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 12:45PM
Q&A with producers Jack Turner and Jay Peterson

A GRAY STATE

USA // 93 mins

In 2010 David Crowley, an Iraq veteran, aspiring filmmaker and charismatic up-and-coming voice in fringe politics, began production on his film, Gray State. Set in a dystopian near-future where civil liberties are trampled by an unrestrained federal government, the film’s crowd-funded trailer was enthusiastically received by the burgeoning online community of libertarians, Tea Party activists as well as members of the nascent alt-right. In January of 2015, Crowley was found dead with his family in their suburban Minnesota home. Their shocking deaths quickly became a cause célèbre for conspiracy theorists who speculate that Crowley was assassinated by a shadowy government concerned about a film and filmmaker that was getting too close to the truth about their aims. Directed by Grizzly Man producer, Erik Nelson and executive produced by, Werner Herzog, A GRAY STATE combs through Crowley’s archive of 13,000 photographs, hundreds of hours of home video, and exhaustive behind-the-scenes footage of David’s work in progress to reveal what happens when a paranoid view of the government turns inward —blurring the lines of what is real and what people want to believe.

5/31 | The Avon Theatre | 7:00PM
Cast & crew in attendance for Q&A

HELL ON EARTH: THE FALL OF SYRIA AND RISE OF ISIS

USA // 100 mins

In National Geographic Documentary Films’ HELL ON EARTH: THE FALL OF SYRIA AND THE RISE OF ISIS, Academy Award-nominated Filmmaker and best-selling author Sebastian Junger and his Emmy-winning Filmmaking partner, Nick Quested, chronicle Syria’s descent into the unbridled chaos that allowed the rise of the Islamic State, better known as ISIS.

6/1 | Bow Tie – Theater 1 | 9:00PM
6/2 | Bow Tie – Theater 1 | 9:00PM

Directors: Sebastian Junger, Nick Quested
Screenwriter: Mark Monore
Producers: Sebastian Junger, Nick Quested
Editor: Aaron Soffin
**IT’S NOT YET DARK**  
IRELAND // 78 mins

Soon after premiering his short film *The Sound of People* at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, promising young Irish director Simon Fitzmaurice was tragically diagnosed with motor neurone disease (ALS). At just 34 years old, he was given four years to live, Fitzmaurice and his wife were expecting their third child, and a career in storytelling lay at his feet. Reeling from the shock, Fitzmaurice drew strength from his deepest desires—instead of being stuck in that painful moment, he realized his greatest defiance of ALS would be to direct his first feature film. Seven years later, despite total physical incapacitation, Fitzmaurice completed *My Name is Emily* (2015), directing it only with the use of his eyes. This emotional journey of self-realization and personal triumph over life-crushing adversity is nothing short of inspiring. All of it is captured with intimate home movies, photographs, and an affectionate voice-over by compatriot Colin Farrell, transporting us into Fitzmaurice’s creative world where every physical and psychological challenge is met with positivity and the desire to fulfill a dream.

**LITTLE STONES**  
USA // 86 mins

LITTLE STONES weaves together the personal stories of four women artists, from across the world, who dedicate their lives to empowering women and survivors of gender based violence to express and help eradicate the atrocities of domestic violence, human trafficking, extreme poverty, and female genital mutilation, with their unique art forms.

**MIKE AND THE MAD DOG**  
ESPN’S 30 FOR 30  
USA // 50 mins

Over the years, New York sports fans have witnessed many legendary combinations. Mike Francesa and Chris Russo, and their “Mike and the Mad Dog” show ruled afternoon sports talk from the studios of WFAN 660 for 19 years—not bad considering they didn’t think they’d last 19 days together. Even though they both brought Long Island accents and encyclopedic sports knowledge to the microphone, they were distinctly different personalities who often clashed on and off the air. But when all was said and done, they changed sports radio forever.

In this revealing 30 for 30 documentary, the story of their success is told through in-depth interviews, archival tapes and a chorus of colleagues and fans. The film captures the chemistry that made “Mike and The Mad Dog” so compelling.

Francesa and Russo both went on to success on their own. But for a generation of sports fans, there will never be another sports radio show as entertaining, as argument-inducing, as good as “Mike and The Mad Dog.”

**IT'S NOT YET DARK**  
6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 10:30AM

**LITTLE STONES**  
6/2 | Cole Auditorium | 3:00PM  
6/4 | Cole Auditorium | 11:00AM*

Q&A with Sophia Kruz (Director), Anna Taylor, and Meena Singh (Producer) following the screening.  
*Reception following the Q&A at Sweaty Betty at 200 Greenwich Ave.

**MIKE AND THE MAD DOG**  
6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 10:30AM  
6/4 | Cole Auditorium | 3:00PM

Followed by Producing Sports Panel
The Narrative Shorts Program will screen twice as a series.
6/2 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 6:30PM
6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 2:30PM
*"VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED"*

**SWIM TEAM**

USA // 90 mins
FAMILY FRIENDLY

SWIM TEAM is a feature documentary chronicling the rise of a competitive swim team made up of children and teens on the autism spectrum. Based in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, the cast of SWIM TEAM is largely Latino and Asian, minorities that are underrepresented in competitive swimming and underserved in autism intervention and education. The film follows three of the team’s star athletes, boys on the cusp of adulthood as they face a future of exclusion and dependence. But everything changes when they come together as a team with parent coaches who train them with high expectations and zero pity. As the team vies for state and national Special Olympics championships, SWIM TEAM captures a moving quest for inclusion, independence and a life that feels winning.

Lara Stolman

**Director:** Lara Stolman  
**Producers:** Lara Stolman, Ann Collins, Shanna Belott  
**Editor:** Ann Collins  
**Dir. of Photography:** Laela Kilbourn

6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 4:45PM  
6/4 | Cole Auditorium | 5:15PM

**TROPHY**

USA, UK,
SOUTH AFRICA
108 mins

TROPHY is an ambitious, multidimensional look into the controversial relationship between those that profit from the wild and those that aim to protect it. As populations decline and value rises, the dynamic between big-game hunters and committed conservationists grows more and more complicated with each advancement on either side of the argument.

In an effort to provide true insight on the animal trading industry, the documentary profiles passionate breeders, hunters and wildlife activists. The film promises to leave you questioning what is right, what is wrong and what is the solution with this fiery topic.

Christina Clusiau  
Shaul Schwarz

**Directors:** Christina Clusiau, Shaul Schwarz  
**Producers:** Juan Bertrán, Luke Boelitz, Lauren Haber, Julia Nottingham, Alex Scharfman  
**Editors:** Halil Efrat, Jay Arthur Sterrenberg  
**Dirs. of Photography:** Christina Clusiau, Shaul Schwarz

6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 4:45PM  
6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 1 | 4:00PM

**BACKSTORY**

GERMANY // 8 mins // Drama

As a young child, our protagonist is left by his mother and has to live with his violent father. He fights his way through adolescence and falls in love with the woman of his dreams and just as everything seems to be finally working out for him, a sudden event changes the course of his life forever. A story about how everything we love, everything we learn, everything we build, everything we fear, will one day be gone.

Joschka Laukeninks

**Director:** Joschka Laukeninks  
**Screenwriter:** Joschka Laukeninks  
**Producers:** Benjamin Horstkotte, Tobias Wichura, The Marmalade Films-Hamburg  
**Editor:** Vera Berg  
**Key Cast:** Jan Stapelfeldt, Xenia Assenza, Jessica McIntyre  
**Dir. of Photography:** Eike Rieche

6/2 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 6:30PM  
6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 2:30PM

"VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED"
**BOAT PEOPLE**

GERMANY, AUSTRIA // 28 mins
Drama

On his journey from Somalia to Europe, shipwrecked Moussa is picked up by a wealthy couple on their luxurious catamaran. The athletic young man is the only survivor of a disaster in the Mediterranean Sea and asks Hannes and Gerlinde to smuggle him across the border. Questioning Moussa's true intentions, the yacht owners are torn between mistrust, fear and the urge for helping a fellow human being. A political drama of two separated worlds colliding within one global community.

**BUTTERCUP**

USA // 6 mins // Comedy

Sheila’s new babysitter Emmie asks if there are any bedtime rituals she should know about. There are.

**GLASS HOUSE**

NORWAY // 11.5 mins
Dark Comedy

The past few months, Jens has realized that he isn’t happy. Luckily, he has chosen the suitable time and place for spilling his guts... the family dinner. GLASS HOUSE is a black comedy that will make you choke on laughter and salty duck breast.

The Narrative Shorts Program will screen twice as a series.
6/2 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 6:30PM
6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 2:30PM

*VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED*
NARRATIVE SHORTS

L’ÉCHAPPÉE
FRANCE/ALGERIA // 21 mins
Drama

A kaleidoscopic journey through the streets of Algiers in HOÇINE FILALI’s ramshackle taxi. With dreams of setting sail for a better life in Italy, Hocine will first have to escape the grip of this magical city and its colorful cast of characters.

Valérie Leroy

Directors: Jonathan Mason, Hamid Saidji
Screenwriters: Jonathan Mason, Hamid Saidji
Producers: Jonathan Mason, Hamid Saidji, Claire Mazeau-Karoum, Tewfik Rays
Key Cast: Said Ait Ali Said, Mouni Boullam, Anis Bosli, Moussa Chikh, Samir Saidani, Tewfik Rays
Dir. of Photography: Hamza Sahraoui

LE GRAND BAIN
FRANCE // 17 mins // Comedy

A recent divorcee moves into a new building and teaches its residents to swim, despite not having a swimming pool.

Valérie Leroy

Directors: Valérie Leroy
Screenwriter: Valérie Leroy
Producer: Fabrice Préel-Cléach
Editor: Thomas Sagna
Key Cast: Anne Agbadou-Masson, Camille Bardery, Djemel Barek, Franc Bruneau, Béatrice Clement, Flaminio Corcos, Anouchka Csernakova, Maryse Flaquet, Valérie Leroy, Stéphane Ly-Cuong, Jean Masini, Carole Massana, Olivier Ruidavet, Pierre Zéni

POOL
BRAZIL // 30 mins // Drama

Claudia decides to investigate her grandmother’s past, who recently passed away. Through a letter, she comes to Marlene, an old German lady who lives in Brazil and keeps her memories inside a pool without water. During the visit, the old lady reveals details of her life that intersect with Claudia’s grandmother’s past, a German fugitive of the 2nd World War.

Leandro Goddinho

Directors: Leandro Goddinho
Screenwriter: Leandro Goddinho
Producer: Amina Jorge
Editors: Leandro Goddinho, Mirella Martinelli
Key Cast: Luciana Paes, Sandra Dani, Carolina Bianchi, Marcela Feter, Ester Laccava, Mawusi Tulani, Jane Eyre
Dir. of Photography: Bruno Risas

The Narrative Shorts Program will screen twice as a series.
6/2 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 6:30PM
6/4 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 2:30PM
**VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED**
Clara, an OB/GYN, supports her patients decisions, whether they are bringing a child into the world or terminating a pregnancy. As a wife and loving mother to her two little children, the increasing pressure of daily life and her self-imposed beliefs are beginning to falter. She finds that her duties at the clinic suddenly seem insurmountable and her family is slipping away.

**UNDERPRESSURE**

AUSTRIA // 33 mins // Drama

Barbara and Zdzisław are soon to celebrate their forty-fifth anniversary. It would have been quite the occasion if not for the fact that Zdzisław spent eight of those years living with another woman. Now he’s back with his wife, although she claims that if it were not for her husband’s infirm legs, he would still be chasing skirts around Cracow. In spite of everyday bickering, somewhat inexplicably, their relationship perseveres.

**CLOSE TIES**

POLAND // 19 mins

Kelvin Peña, a charismatic high schooler from rural Pennsylvania, went viral in 2016 after befriending a group of wild deer and posting his adventures with them on Snapchat and Instagram. In this short documentary, he discusses his life philosophy, describes his experience with sudden internet fame, and takes the filmmakers on a trip to meet his deer friends.

**DEER SQUAD**

USA // 5 mins

The Documentary Shorts Program will screen twice as a series.

6/1 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 5:30PM

6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 2 | 10:45AM
A Category of One

Our exclusive focus on musculoskeletal conditions, industry-leading research and personalized care delivers an unmatched level of excellence to patients.
The Federation of Arts is proud to support the Greenwich Film Festival because the arts Make an Impact!

The American Federation of Arts is the leader in traveling exhibitions internationally. A nonprofit organization founded in 1909, the AFA is dedicated to enriching the public’s experience and understanding of the visual arts. For more information visit www.amfedarts.org
In a remarkable twist of fate, it was the decades-long effort of one blind person, Gordon Gund, that made it possible for another, Yannick Duwé, to see. After more than 45 years, the journey of Gordon and Lulie Gund to find a cure for blindness can only be described as an act of love.

Clancy McCarty

**THE ILLUMINATION**
USA // 19 mins

In a remarkable twist of fate, it was the decades-long effort of one blind person, Gordon Gund, that made it possible for another, Yannick Duwé, to see. After more than 45 years, the journey of Gordon and Lulie Gund to find a cure for blindness can only be described as an act of love.

Tom Scott

**GIVING BIRTH IN AMERICA EPISODE**
USA // 14 mins

Maternal health non-profit Every Mother Counts presents a new three-part, short documentary series, GIVING BIRTH IN AMERICA to examine some of the key reasons that the U.S. is falling so far behind in maternal healthcare. Each short film follows pregnant women and their healthcare providers in Florida, Montana and New York in the days leading up to delivery. Together, they navigate challenges of race, poverty, chronic illness, overuse of medical interventions and other inequalities that impact maternal health outcomes in America.

Clancy McCarty

**FISH STORY**
U.K. // 14 mins

A search for the truth behind a fishy tale.

Charlie Lyne

**The Documentary Shorts Program will screen twice as a series**
6/1 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 5:30PM
6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 2 | 10:45AM
THE RABBIT HUNT
USA // 12 mins

In the Florida Everglades, rabbit hunting is considered a rite of passage for young men. THE RABBIT HUNT follows seventeen year old Chris and his family as they hunt in the fields of the largest industrial sugar farms in the US. The film records a tradition by which migrant farm workers in the communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee have been hunting and preparing rabbits since the early 1900s.

Director: Patrick Bresnan
Screenwriter: Ivete Lucas
Producers: Maida Brankman, Patrick Bresnan, Beth Earl, Ivete Lucas
Editor: Ivete Lucas
Dir. of Photography: Patrick Bresnan

REFUGE
USA // 20 mins

A small team of filmmakers, photographers, and storytellers travel to Greece to document human stories from the Refugee Crisis. This film explores the answers to the universal questions, 'Why did you leave your home?' and 'What do you hope to find where you’re going?'

Director: Matthew K. Firpo
Producers: Maximilian Guen, Matteo Zevi, Rosanna Bach
Editor: Stephen Simon
Dir. of Photography: Jake Saner

TEN METER TOWER
SWEDEN // 16.5 mins

People on a ten meter diving tower have to choose whether to bravely jump or climb down. This dilemma is an entertaining study of the human in a vulnerable position.

Axel Danielson and Maximilien Van Aertryck

Directors: Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck
Screenwriters: Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck
Producers: Axel Danielson, Erik Hemmendorff, Ami Ekström
Editors: Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck
Dir. of Photography: Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck

The Documentary Shorts Program will screen twice as a series.
6/1 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 5:30PM
6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 2 | 10:45AM

Greenwich International Film Festival // 43
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Connecticut
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The Connecticut Office of Film, Television & Digital Media is proud to present the Connecticut Best Short Film Award.

www.ctfilm.com
**A CHRISTMAS SURPRISE**

USA // 4.2 mins // Comedy
**Narrative Short**

When a young girl finds out the devastating truth that Santa isn’t real on the night before Christmas, she analyzes the implications of this realization.

Sarah Lew

**Director:** Sarah Lew  
**Screenwriter:** Sarah Lew  
**Producer:** Savannah Hemmig  
**Editor:** Christopher Tennant  
**Key Cast:** Kim Rogers  
**Dir. of Photography:** Christopher Tennant

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**HI-GLOW RETRO**

USA // 14 mins // Comedy
**Narrative Short**

Tommy Ashby, a high school senior with severe social anxiety, decides to step out of his comfort zone to learn 70’s disco dancing. HI-GLOW RETRO is a proof of concept for a feature film of the same name.

Alex Morsanutto

**Director:** Alex Morsanutto  
**Screenwriter:** Alex Morsanutto  
**Producers:** Joseph Walker, Alex Morsanutto, Jason Ludman, Sam Cutler-Kreutz  
**Editors:** Alex Morsanutto, Carlos Zozaya  
**Key Cast:** Bryan Burton, Jessica Cadden-Osborne, Nina Negron, Jack Brinkley-Cook  
**Dir. of Photography:** Sam Cutler-Kreutz

---

**BLIND SUSHI**

USA // 17 mins  
**Documentary Short**

A blind adventure writer and the first sustainable sushi chef search for enlightenment in the murky depths of the New England coast.

Eric Heimbold

**Director:** Eric Heimbold  
**Screenwriter:** Eric Heimbold  
**Producer:** Eric Heimbold  
**Editor:** Jed Hernandez  
**Dir. of Photography:** Eric Heimbold

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The Connecticut Shorts Program will screen twice as a series

6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 3:00PM  
6/4 | Cole Auditorium | 7:45PM  

"**VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED**"
**MY NAME IS JOAN**

USA // 29.5 mins  
Documentary Short

MY NAME IS JOAN tells the story of a woman who was born to an unwed mother in a mother and baby home in Ireland in 1949 and then illegally adopted by an American family when she was over 2 years old. The film highlights how the Catholic Church and the Irish Government allowed the illegal exporting of babies for money to occur for decades and how the church and the government are still denying adopted children the right to access their adoption records and learn their true identities.

Margaret Stapor Costa  
**Director:** Margaret Stapor Costa  
**Screenwriter:** Margaret Stapor Costa  
**Producer:** Margaret Stapor Costa  
**Editors:** Bruce Colgate, Remo DeNardo  
**Dir. of Photography:** Matt Skinner, Reno Denardo

---

**A WONDERFUL PLACE**

USA // 9 mins  
Documentary Short

A WONDERFUL PLACE is a short documentary film told from the perspective of 80 year old Greenwich, CT estate owner, Norma Asnes. We travel with Norma, via John Deere electric cart, around her property and on the journey gain insights into family and nature.

Sam Ketay  
**Director:** Sam Ketay  
**Editor:** Sam Ketay  
**Dir. of Photography:** Sam Ketay

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**KID FLIX: CHILDREN’S SHORTS PROGRAM**

INT'L // 64 mins  
FAMILY FRIENDLY

Selected for our younger audience members, KID FLIX features the newest short films from esteemed filmmakers from all over the world.

**Multiple Directors**

---

The Connecticut Shorts Program will screen twice as a series  
6/3 | Bow Tie – Theater 3 | 3:00PM  
6/4 | Cole Auditorium | 7:45PM  
**VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED**

6/3 | Cole Auditorium | 11:00 AM  
Note: All children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
Since the inaugural utterance of its now infamous opening line—“Live from New York, it’s Saturday Night!”—NBC’s Saturday Night Live has gone on to become one of the most popular, celebrated, and longest-running programs in television history. This legendary late-night sketch show, known for the irreverent manner in which it has poked fun at politics and pop culture, has been a preeminent breeding ground and launching pad for some of the best comedy writers, most talented performers, and biggest stars of the last forty years. This multiple Emmy Award winning show arguably has provided more classic moments of entertainment than any other program in the history of the medium—and it all starts in the writers’ room.

Please join us in an engaging discussion with Tim Herlihy and Bryan Tucker to discuss the creative process of script to screen.

Moderator: Lorne Manly, New York Times

---

Women Driving ROI IN THE FILM MARKETPLACE

A Luncheon and Panel Discussion

Movies for women do better than movies focused on any other demographic at the box office, yet funding is harder to come by for female focused entertainment.

Join us for an engaging discussion about this illogical disparity and how Hollywood can grow by investing in female-centric films.

Panelists: Suzanne Farwell, Producer (Carrie Pilby, It's Complicated, The Intern, Something's Gotta Give) and Susan Cartsonis, Producer (No Reservations, Carrie Pilby, The DUFF, What Women Want)

Moderator: Ruth Ann Harnisch, Lead Investor, Superlative Films, Executive Producer (The Hunting Ground, Unrest)

---

Thursday, June 1
7PM
The Avon Theatre
272 Bedford Street
Stamford CT 06901

SPONSORED BY

First Republic

Tim Herlihy

Friday, June 2
12:30PM
Indian Harbor Yacht Club
710 Steamboat Road
Greenwich, CT 06830

By Invitation Only

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OPENING NIGHT PARTY

JUNE 2, 2017 · 8:30PM · BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREENWICH

AWARDS PRESENTED BY
SOPHIA BUSH

CONCERT BY
FLO RIDA

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CASAMIGOS Tequila
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WE BELIEVE THERE ARE NO LIMITS
GREENWICH International Film Festival™

CHANGEMAKER Honoree Gala

Join us in honoring the 2017 Changemakers

Thursday, June 1, 2017
6 PM Cocktail Reception
Betteridge, 239 Greenwich Ave.
8 PM Awards Dinner
L’escale Restaurant, 500 Steamboat Rd.

RENNÉE ZELLWEGER
Honored for her advocacy on behalf of ALS and the SIMS Foundation

ANDREW NIBLOCK
Community Changemaker

JENNA BUSH HAGER
Master of Ceremonies

CHRISTY TURLINGTON BURNS
Honored for her tremendous achievements founding Every Mother Counts.

SPONSORED BY

Proceeds will support the fight against ALS, the SIMS Foundation and Every Mother Counts.
THE FILM REVIEW

An Inside Look at
The Formidable Responsibility of a Film Critic

Ever since the dawn of cinema when the Lumière Brothers first set up their cameras, there has been a flood of filmmakers who have attempted, in various ways, to capture “objective truth” on celluloid. For almost as long, film criticism has wrestled with the difficulties inherent in the process of analyzing a film objectively. Is it possible—or even desirable—for film criticism to be free from personal bias? And what is a critics responsibility to the success or failure of a film? A critics response can ultimately be the make or break of that movie’s future in terms of festival play, its distribution success, and its box office prowess.

Join us in a conversation with top film critics as we discuss objective criticism and the formidable responsibility these heavy hitters have over the future of a film. Panelists: Richard Lawson (Vanity Fair), Marshall Fine (General Manager, NYFCC), Chris Nashawaty (Entertainment Weekly), and Alison Willmore (Buzzfeed). Moderator: Joe Meyers (CT Post)

Friday, June 2
3:00PM
Greenwich Arts Council
299 Greenwich Ave
Greenwich, CT 06830

CANNONBALL REUNION!

Meet the real outlaws who were depicted in the 1981 film The Cannonball Run… and those who followed in their footsteps later on!

Relive those desperado days through excerpts from the movie and get the real facts and wild stories from the legends!

Featuring: Pamela Yates, Bill Brodrick, Judy Stropus, William Jeanes, Jack Cowell, Bill Warner, Alex Roy and others who beat the law as they sped from New York to Los Angeles!

Hosted by Mike Spinelli, Executive Producer, TheDrive.com at Time Inc., co-host of The Drive on NBC Sports and co-founder of Jalopnik.

Plus video greetings from Dan Gurney, Toly Arutunoff and Pete Brock, and others, telling their stories. And a tribute to the man himself, the late Brock Yates.

Friday, June 2
6:30PM
Greenwich Library Cole Auditorium
101 West Putnam Ave
Greenwich, CT 06830

Original outlaw cars on display
including Brock Yates’s Challenger, Bill Warner’s Porsche 911, Travis Bell’s Transcon Medi-Vac recreation, Alex Roy’s BMW M5, and more!
EVENY AUTHOR AND BRAND HAS A STORY TO TELL.
LSC COMMUNICATIONS DELIVERS SEAMLESS PRINT AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS TO BRING THOSE STORIES TO LIGHT.
Please join us for a screening of ESPN 30 for 30’s new documentary MIKE AND THE MAD DOG – based on two of the greatest sportscasters in history – followed by a discussion of the bright future of sports entertainment with Chris Russo (Mike and the Mad Dog), Connor Schell (Co-creator and EP, ESPN’s 30 for 30), Mark Teixeira (Analyst, ESPN), Hannah Storn (Anchor, ESPN) and Kyle Martino (Analyst, NBC Sports). Moderator: Ryen Russillo (Radio Host, ESPN)

Join us at the LOOK VIP Tent at Greenwich Polo to celebrate the last day of the Film Festival. $50 of each $200 ticket will be donated to GIFF!

Order tickets at WWW.LOOKATGREENWICHPOLO.COM
CRAIN COMMUNICATIONS IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE
GREENWICH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
AS THEY HARNES THE POWER OF FILM TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD.
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**Thursday, June 1**

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<td>Little Stones</td>
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<td>The Film Review</td>
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<td>Greenwich Arts Council</td>
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<td>The Cannonball Run</td>
<td>Reunion</td>
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<td>9 PM</td>
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<td>Narrative Shorts Program</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>144 Mins</td>
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<td>10 PM</td>
<td>A Gray State</td>
<td>The Strange Ones</td>
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<td>Opening Night Film</td>
<td>Bending the Arc</td>
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<td>A Bad Idea Gone Wrong</td>
<td>Documentary Shorts</td>
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<td>Kids Flix: Children’s Shorts Program</td>
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<td>10:45 AM - 85 Mins</td>
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<td>The Light of the Moon</td>
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<td>CT Shorts Program</td>
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<td>The Light of the Moon Town Hall Discussion</td>
<td>Fits and Starts 1:30 PM - 80 Mins</td>
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<td>Secret Screening Event* 5:30 PM - 64 Mins</td>
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<td>9 PM</td>
<td>Hot Summer Nights</td>
<td>Beach Rats</td>
<td>It’s Only the End of the World</td>
<td>Filmmaker and VIP Afterparty 8:00 PM J House Greenwich 1114 E.Putnam Ave Greenwich</td>
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<td>9:00 PM - 107 Mins</td>
<td>8:45 PM - 95 Mins</td>
<td>7:30 PM - 100 Mins</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
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Schedule subject to change.

*Contact GIFF Box Office for more information
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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Bow Tie Cinemas Theater 1</th>
<th>Bow Tie Cinemas Theater 2</th>
<th>Bow Tie Cinemas Theater 3</th>
<th>Cole Auditorium Greenwich Library</th>
<th>Various Locations. Check Event</th>
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<td>10 AM</td>
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Being alive means we, as humans will inevitably face challenges throughout life that test our physical strength and mental fortitude in the face of unthinkable experiences. They may have repercussions that last a day or even a lifetime, but will generally fall within a range of emotions we can understand. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is outside that range. How can someone begin to understand a disorder that can be so vicious and cruel? Something so destructive could be misinterpreted for a villain in a film or literary work; wreaking havoc among an already chaotic world. It begs the question, who will stand up against this terrifying affliction?

The answer is Dr. Merit Cudkowicz – Chief Medical Officer of ALS Finding a Cure (ALSFAC), HMS Julieanne Dorn Professor of Neurology, and chief of the Department of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital. GIFF is honored to have ALSFAC host the Changemaker Honoree Gala on June 1st, 2017. At the event, Dr. Cudkowicz will be speaking about her research and clinical work dedicated to the treatment and understanding of ALS.

In 1994, Dr. Cudkowicz met a family who opened her eyes to what it was like to live with this disease. This personal relationship integrated her care and research philosophy, ultimately inspiring a collaboration with others across the globe. Dr. Cudkowicz states, “My colleagues all over the world share the same passion and dedication to helping people and finding treatments fast.”

Dr. Cudkowicz leads a team of researchers at ALS Finding a Cure, bringing together leading experts from multiple institutions and countries, all searching for cures. ALSFAC is currently focused on new studies aiming to understand the causes of ALS and bring immediate treatment to those suffering. This organization has partnered with GE Healthcare, whose innovative technology assists in diagnosing patients sooner. Dr. Cudkowicz explains how these tools in the contemporary medical landscape have provided incredible advances over time. Her team now has the ability to see the brain and spinal cord, analyze cells at a molecular level, and provide insight as to how motor neurons can be repaired and saved. Every dollar raised for ALSFAC goes directly to research, which is open source and shared for others to use.

Dr. Cudkowicz has immense pride in her team’s accomplishments, and is deeply grateful for the patients and families who actively participate in ALSFAC supported studies. She is hopeful for new treatments and claims that, “there is hope now - where there was none before.” Dr. Cudkowicz urges everyone to become involved in the ALS community, whether it is through a research study, support group, fundraiser, or webinar.

When asked about the future of those diagnosed with ALS, Dr. Merit Cudkowicz states, “I envision a day when ALS will be considered a chronic, survivable illness - like diabetes or hypertension - where there are many therapeutic options - where we tailor peoples’ treatments to what works best for them and what they respond to. Ultimately, I hope we find ways to prevent ALS from ever happening in the first place.”

The Greenwich International Film Festival would like to commend Dr. Merit Cudkowicz on her continuous work with ALS Finding A Cure. We look forward to hearing more about her spirit, vitality, and inspirational journey at the 2017 Changemaker Honoree Gala!
CONGRATULATES

Nanci Ryder
and
Renée Zellweger

In their Efforts to Raise Awareness & Funds to Fight ALS
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We are proud to support
ANDREW NIBLOCK
Local Hero and Changemaker Award Recipient

“When I am older I am going to develop a medicine to cure ALS and Mr. Niblock will be the first to use it!”
Cayden Ever (age 7)

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LIKE US ON:
The Greenwich International Film Festival is proud to honor our first ever, Community Changemaker, Andrew Niblock.

Andrew has been an educator his entire working life. Currently, he is Head of the Lower School at Greenwich Country Day School (GCDS), a position he has held for the past 4 years. His passion for education is palpable and any parent who has heard him speak, whether to introduce a new school year, a play, or a science fair, can attest to this. It should come as no surprise that Andrew, who was diagnosed with ALS last year, is using his battle with ALS to teach our community about the disease and to help others.

Andrew recently revealed his diagnosis to the children of GCDS in two age-appropriate films. The films lead with celebrities doing the now famous ice bucket challenge, something he did with his wife and two young children before his diagnosis. The Ice Bucket Challenge was one of the most successful mass fundraising and awareness efforts in history. Not only did it raise over $200 million for ALS research, but it had an exponential effect on overall awareness. Andrew went on to explain what all these people all over the world were doing and why.

In one sequence, Adam Rhodie, Headmaster of GCDS asks Andrew “Is ALS contagious, can you catch it?” Andrew assures the students that no, they can’t catch it, and then explains what it feels like to have ALS and what simple things they can do to help him each day.

What he has done in the video, and what he is doing every day when he greets each child with a morning handshake, is teaching our children about compassion. As the year has progressed, Andrew’s handshake has gotten weaker but his determination to be a guiding force in his students’ lives has not. Each day Andrew is leading by example, demonstrating how to carry oneself with grace in the face of personal struggle. The effect his strength will have on these children as they grow into adulthood is invaluable.

There have been meaningful advancements in ALS research and it is directly tied to funding. ALS Finding a Cure and other phenomenal organizations like it are discovering new drugs and getting them to market as quickly as possible. Recent advancements are allowing more people with ALS to move and communicate with adaptive technology, improving their quality of life.

Andrew is an ideal Community Changemaker as he bravely enlightens and enriches our community. GIFF is proud to support the work Andrew and his wife Eliza are doing to raise awareness and funds for ALS research.

Andrew, WE ARE ALL IN. And together, we will Make An Impact.
ANDREW

You inspire, teach, and humble us each day!

Thank you for everything you do and always making us smile!

Love,
ALL THE ROACHES
A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

for the dynamic women of GIFF and for their
highlighting issues affecting our world through
organizations like Every Mother Counts,
The Family Centers Inc., The Maria Fareri
Children’s Hospital, and the fight to cure ALS.

THE STAPLETON FAMILY
“Andrew is a friend and an incredible inspiration to not only our girls, but the entire community.”

Andrew, you are exemplary!

WENDY, DIEGO, LOULIE, MIA AND GEORGIE REYES
Mark & Leigh Teixeira proudly support the

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and congratulate

ANDREW NIBLOCK

on being named the

2017 Community Changemaker
CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY CHANGEMAKER

ANDREW NIBLOCK

You truly are an inspiration to the entire community!

Thank you GIFF for bringing awareness to ALS and your community partners!

KIRSTINA & MICHAEL GABELLI
AND FAMILY
HOW DOES GIFF MAKE AN IMPACT?

RAISED MORE THAN $300,000* FOR CHARITY PARTNERS

OFFERED A VARIETY OF FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO THE COMMUNITY

AWARDED $100,000 TO FILMMAKERS*

RAISED AWARENESS OF IMPORTANT ISSUES THROUGH PROGRAMMING.
Topics have included: Human rights, cyber bullying, gun control, racial injustice, prison reform, educational reform, environmental issues, forced migration, mental health, women’s rights

HONORED HUMANITARIANS
Harry Belafonte, Mia Farrow, Freida Pinto, Trudie Styler, Abigail Breslin, Renée Zellweger, Christy Turlington Burns and Andrew Niblock

*Through July 31, 2017
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