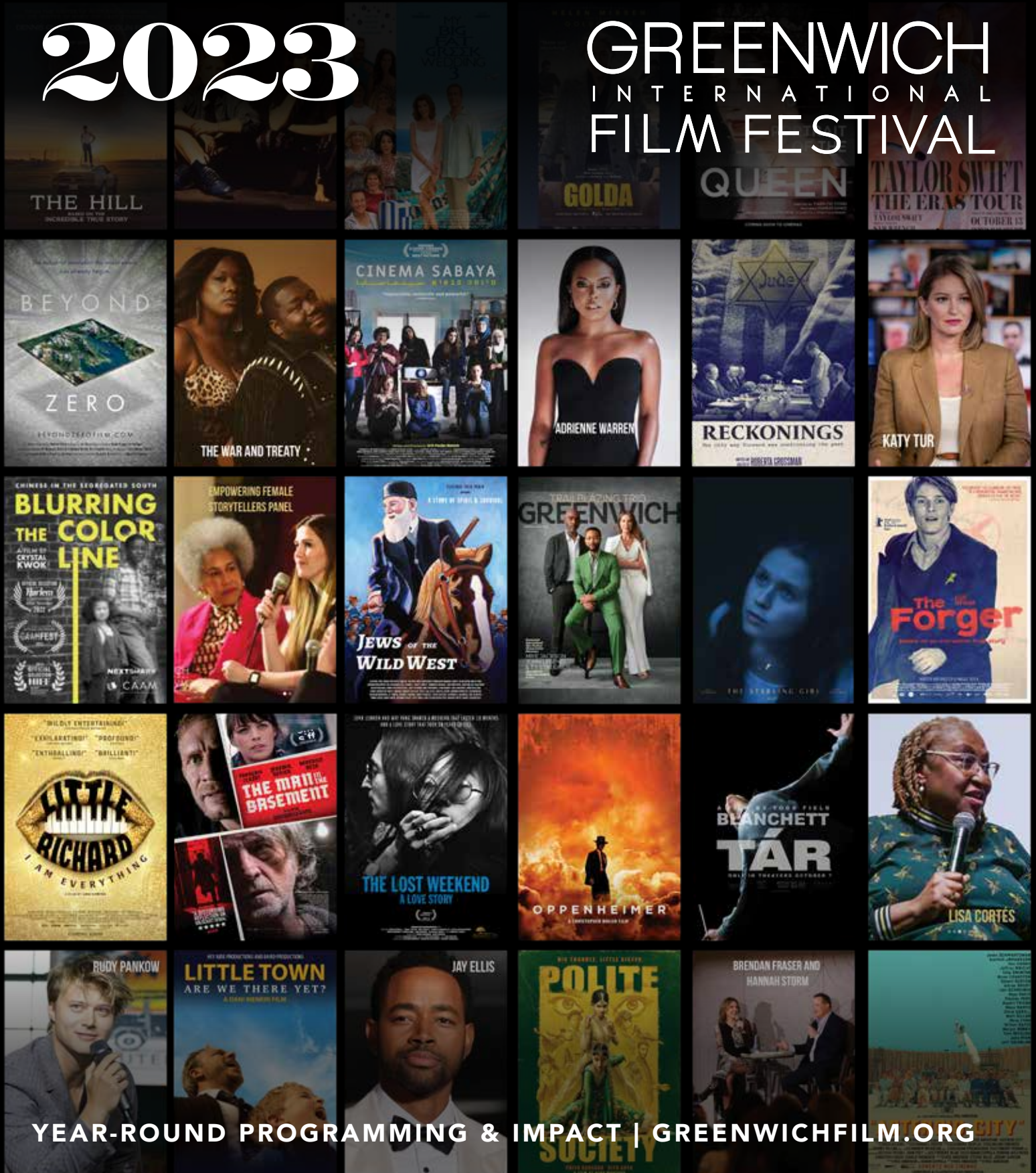


# PROGRAM

## 2023

## GREENWICH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL





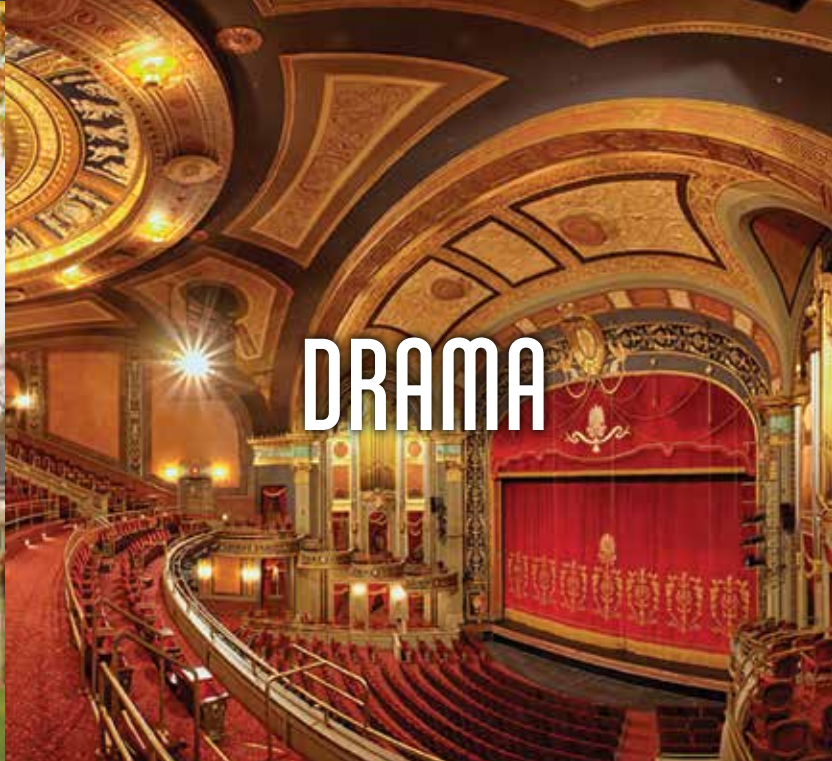
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**20** GIFF honors EGOT winner John Legend, Emmy and Tony winner Mike Jackson, and Emmy winner Ty Stiklorius, producers and founders of the production company Get Lifted Film Co.



**17** Empowering Female Storytellers Panel



**18** Spotlight On Rudy Pankow

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# *GIFF TEAM*

Wendy Stapleton..... Chairwoman  
Ginger Stickel ..... Executive Director  
Alicia Pipher..... Office Manager  
Lauren Clayton ..... Graphic Designer (Studio 162)  
Laura Kutnick..... Chairwoman of Film Selection  
Matt Stellwagen ..... Website Developer  
Sebastian Dostmann..... Event Producer (Sebass Events)  
Heather Raftery..... VIP Concierge  
Helen Haberman ..... Talent Liason  
O'Connor Davies ..... Accounting Firm  
Falco Ink..... PR Firm  
Danielle Allen..... Bookkeeper  
John Bernardo..... Social Impact Juror  
Ruth-Terry Walden ..... Social Impact Juror  
Ann Bresnan Young ..... Social Impact Juror

Claudia Citrin..... Intern  
Teuta Emini..... Intern  
Thomas Esposito..... Intern  
Jess Gambino..... Intern  
Simon Grogan..... Intern  
Amber Leute ..... Intern  
Christine Plaster..... Intern  
Joshua Relyea ..... Intern  
Izzy Rosales ..... Intern  
Charlie Tortorella..... Intern

---

## *BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

Ashley Bekton	Mike Kelley
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Rebecca Colin, Ph.D	Christian Simonds
Clay Floren	Kevin Sneddon
Jenna Bush Hager	Wendy Stapleton
Andrew Karpen	

---

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Jared Ian Goldman	Hannah Storm
Kim Habul	Darnell Strom
Colin Hanks	Emily Wachtel
Peter Hedges	Julie Fareri Zielinski
Michael Imperioli	

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is proud to support the Greenwich International Film Festival's decade-long endeavor to enrich our community



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celebrate the events, people life and style of our town.

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# *A letter from the Chairwoman*



I am extremely proud of the work we have accomplished during our 10 years at the Greenwich International Film Festival (GIFF). As we close out our first decade at GIFF, we have many milestones to celebrate. We were the first film festival to program fifty percent of our lineup with films written or directed by women. We have raised well over one million dollars for our charity partners and hundreds of thousands of dollars for emerging filmmakers. We have engaged our community in discussions sparked by films on topics ranging from mental health, the environment, prison reform, race relations, LGBTQ plus issues, gun violence, religious persecution, and more.

During the Covid outbreak, we were able to pivot to an entirely virtual festival in a matter of weeks, thus saving our beloved organization. We not only kept GIFF alive, but were able to help local charities during that challenging time, donating over \$100,000 and raising much needed awareness for issues affecting our community.

Post Covid, we introduced GIFF Uninterrupted, a year-round program, which allows us to leverage some of the truly amazing content we have access to. This year we have hosted over a dozen in-person screening events with our partners at The Avon Theater and The Bedford Playhouse. We also hosted virtual events, maximizing the flexibility of our robust virtual platform. In addition, we put on a fantastic social impact film series and presented the second year of our Jewish Film Series.

In the Spring we hosted a #MakeanImpact event for GIFF's younger generation at Arch Street and had a packed house for our discussion with Outer Banks star Rudy Pankow. Just a week later, we honored Best Actor Oscar winner Brendan Fraser for his work with Abilis at an event hosted at The Village in Stamford, highlighted by an exciting Q and A with the Oscar winner followed by a lovely cocktail hour.

At the heart of GIFF lies the fundamental belief that stories can change people's hearts and minds and compel them into action. It is often hard to see the atrocities of our world and not feel helpless, especially when looking at them at a macroscale. But when we zoom in, change perspective and bear witness to one person, one family, or one nation's story — we bring out our common humanity and create pathways of empathy between us. As we face unimaginable upheaval and violence in our world, it is these pathways that become essential as reminders that what unites us as human beings is far greater than what divides us.

I am very proud of the work that our 2023 Changemaker honorees John Legend, Ty Stiklorius and Mike Jackson have done with their company, Get Lifted, to help tell such stories, creating broader understanding and compassion in the world. Their goal is to tell the stories of underrepresented people through film, television, theater and song, using art to foster understanding. I cannot think of a better way to close out the first decade of GIFF than by celebrating these three inspiring individuals.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our Board, donors, sponsors and the GIFF team led by our incredible Executive Director Ginger Stickel. I am profoundly grateful to have Ginger on our team and for her tireless devotion to GIFF and our mission.

With gratitude,

**Wendy Stapleton**

Co Founder, Chairman of the Board.



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*Applauding the power of films  
to uplift, impact, and effect  
positive change in our world.*

THE BILL & ANN BRESNAN FOUNDATION

# *A letter from Executive Director, Ginger Stickel*



In the 10 years since we launched Greenwich International Film Festival (GIFF), there have been considerable changes to the film industry and to the world. Change can be exciting and scary. It can be subtle or sudden, effortless or challenging, tragic or joyful. Whatever the circumstances are, I've learned one thing is certain: change is imminent.

In 2014, we created GIFF with the mission to harness the power of film to serve the greater good. Our goal was to develop a platform for artists to showcase their work and amplify their impact. As an all-female founded non-profit organization that supports filmmakers and charity partners, we had our work cut out for us. Our theme during the inaugural Festival was, Come to Conn. Given our location on the water and the sophistication of our events, we drew inspiration from our role model, Festival de Cannes.

The following year, we needed to prove that GIFF was sustainable. We worked to raise the bar, attracting more talent and doubling the size of the Festival and our charitable donation under the theme, New Year, Next Level. With the rise of streaming networks, we opened our line-up to include series from networks like Showtime and Netflix. We soon realized that we needed to keep our Festival's goal top-of-mind with our growing audience, thus our #MakeAnImpact campaign was born. It has remained an integral part of our organization over the past seven years and is a benchmark for the films we screen, the panels we host, and the artists we honor. It led us to be the first film festival to program 50% of our line-up with films written or directed by women, a year before the Times Up movement started.

After celebrating our five-year anniversary with an Epic Party and our largest program ever, our commitment to #MakeAnImpact helped guide us when the world shut down in March 2020. We worked around the clock to build an online platform, put our panels on Zoom, and host the Festival on time six weeks later. The 2020 Festival attracted our biggest audience to date, with people tuning in from a variety of countries. It proved just how vital film is to help people connect on a deeper level. Following the pandemic, GIFF continued to #MakeAnImpact by hosting a Call for Charity in 2021, raising funds for 15 charities that addressed needs ranging from hunger to mental health to cancer and special needs within the community.

In 2022, the industry was experiencing changes with film production and release schedules, and theaters were struggling. Needing to evolve with these changes, we offered uninterrupted programming including a mix of in-person and online events throughout the year.

Now, more than ever, GIFF's mission is a critical one. We kicked off 2023 with GIFF Inspired, emphasizing our commitment to powerful content that offers new perspectives, ideas and values. In January, we held a screening of CINEMA SABAYA, winner of the Best Picture at Israel's Ophir Awards. This optimistic film features a mix of Jewish and Arab women who take part in a video workshop which challenges their views and beliefs as they get to know each other and themselves better. We have also screened enlightening films like LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING which won GIFF's 2023 Best Social Impact Film Award, and BEYOND ZERO about one company's victory at reducing their carbon footprint to almost zero. Our audience eagerly participated in a Q&A with talented directors from ESPN, following our EMPOWERING FEMALE STORYTELLERS panel during Women's History Month. They packed the theater for an advance screening of OPPENHEIMER and sang out loud to TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR.

Perhaps our most anticipated event, the Changemaker Gala, illustrates just how much we need artists to inspire us. The excitement in the community at honoring John Legend, Mike Jackson, and Ty Stiklorius, co-founders of the uplifting company, GET LIFTED, is palpable.

What would the world be if we didn't have Changemakers? I know what GIFF would be - just a figment of our imagination. It's only because of an incredibly supportive Board, a talented team, inspiring filmmakers, and a generous group of members, partners and sponsors that GIFF has been able to grow from a hopeful idea into an organization that has spent the last decade promoting positive social change. I'm grateful beyond measure for Wendy Stapleton, our Founding Members, and all who've left their imprint on GIFF over the years. Over half our Board has been with us since the beginning. Team members like Lauren Clayton, DJ April Larken, Sebastian Dostmann and Asher Almonacy have been meaningful resources for GIFF for nearly a decade, as have partners like Moffly Media, Bleecker Street, Avon Theatre, Bedford Playhouse, the Eve & Simon Colin Family Foundation, Ann & Nick Young, and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Also important are newer team members like Alicia Pipher and this year's sponsors including Lugano, the Connecticut Office of Film, Television, & Digital Media, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Village, Nichols MD, Bank of America, JP Morgan, and Compass, to name a few. It's been an honor to accomplish our mission together for the past 10 years, and the lessons we've learned by doing so will help us navigate all of the changes to come.

As a GIFF Board Member, I appreciate how a film tells someone's story.  
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Susan Cullman  
Christine Lai & Craig Elkind  
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**Special thanks** to Linda & Steve Munger and Yamaha for presenting the Changemaker Baby Grand Piano

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Mark & Leigh Teixeira  
Victoria & Mike Triplett

## *2023 FILM AWARDS*

### **Congratulations to the 2023 film award recipients!**

GIFF's Best Social Impact Film Award was presented to Lisa Cortés, director, *LITTLE RICHARD, I AM EVERYTHING*, during a Virtual Film Award Ceremony on May 7th.

Ann & Nick Young generously underwrote the \$10,000 cash award. *BEYOND ZERO*, directed by Nathan Havey, received Honorable Mention.

Thank you to our jury and to the talented filmmakers who submitted films for consideration.



### **LITTLE RICHARD, I AM EVERYTHING**

Directed by: Lisa Cortés



### **BEYOND ZERO**

Directed by: Nathan Havey



### **GIFF Inspiration Talk & Award Ceremony Honoring Brendan Fraser**

On May 3rd, Greenwich International Film Festival hosted the inaugural GIFF Inspiration Talk & Award Ceremony honoring Academy Award-winning Actor, Brendan Fraser. The event, which was held at The Village and sponsored by the Connecticut Office of Film, Television & Digital Media, benefited Abilis with 100% of the proceeds. Hannah Storm moderated a live Q&A with the actor during which he discussed his career highlights and philanthropic endeavors. Following the event, VIP guests attended a reception featuring music by DJ April Larken.

*PANELS &  
SPECIAL  
EVENTS*



## Empowering Female Storytellers

In celebration of Women's History Month, GIFF and ESPN paid homage to female filmmakers who've made important contributions through their power of storytelling. During this powerful panel discussion they shared the challenges they have encountered bringing their stories to life and lessons they have learned along the way.

The panel was moderated by Marsha Cooke, VP and Executive Producer, ESPN Films, and featured panelists Joie Jacoby: "W Studios: Candace Parker," Michèle Stephenson: "30 For 30 Shorts: Play," Hannah Storm, "Hulu/ABC News Studios: Grails," and Jennifer Karson-Strauss, "E60: Truth Be Told."



## Spotlight On Rudy Pankow

GIFF's Spotlight On Rudy Pankow event took place on April 24th at Arch Street Teen Center and featured a Q&A moderated by Charles Thorp, Editor of Men's Journal, music by DJ 10Dogs, and a pizza party. The actor received the #MakeAnImpact Award for his portrayal of JJ Maybanks, a teen from a troubled home who has experienced domestic violence, on the hit Netflix Series, OUTER BANKS.

## Jewish Film Series

GIFF held its annual Jewish Film Series online from February 10th - 12th, 2023. It concluded with a Q&A moderated by Mary Jane Rein, Executive Director of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. The discussion featured Amanda Kinsey, Director, JEWS OF THE WILD WEST, Maggie Peren, Director, THE FORGER, Roberta Grossman, Director, RECKONINGS, Philippe Le Guay, Director, THE MAN IN THE BASEMENT. Panelists discussed their filmmaking process, personal experiences, and the historical importance of bringing to light Jewish stories.

## Surviving Sex Trafficking

In partnership with Partnership to End Human Trafficking, GIFF hosted a special screening of SURVIVING SEX TRAFFICKING followed by an enlightening panel discussion at Westport Library on November 16th. Panelists included Lili Bordan; Jamie Manirakiza, PEHT Executive Director; Becca Zipkin, Policy Director WorldWe; and Krishna Patel, International Strategist, former federal prosecutor and TedX speaker.



## GIFF Patron Party

GIFF celebrated our supporters at a festive patron party, hosted by Dr. Kim Nichols and Chris Cabanillas, on October 3rd, 2023. The event featured an outdoor movie, live music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, as well as party favors from Nichols MD. We are tremendously grateful for our members, donors, sponsors and film enthusiasts. Special thanks to the team at Nichols MD for their time and talent planning such a special evening for GIFF patrons.



# 2023 GIFF

## *Changemakers*

Each year, GIFF is proud to honor artists who use their voices for positive social change. This year's Changemaker Honorees include EGOT winner **John Legend**, Emmy and Tony winner **Mike Jackson**, and Emmy winner **Ty Stiklorius**, producers and founders of the production company **Get Lifted Film Co.**

---



2023 Gala Co-Chairs (L to R in photo)  
Kate Clark, Victoria Triplett and Kim Habul

Learn more about the Changemaker Gala  
[greenwichfilm.org/changemaker](https://greenwichfilm.org/changemaker)



## JOHN LEGEND

John Legend is an EGOT-winning, critically acclaimed, multi-platinum artist and producer. The 12-time Grammy Award-winner released his eighth studio album, *LEGEND*, last fall, and returned as a judge on season 24 of the Emmy-nominated show, *THE VOICE*, in September. Earlier this year, Legend launched *Lovedo1*, an effective, affordable and accessible unisex skincare brand formulated to treat the needs of melanin-rich skin.

Legend, alongside award-winning producers Mike Jackson and Ty Stiklorius, is a principal in Get Lifted FilmCo., a Los Angeles based production company dedicated to bringing elevated multi-cultural content across film, television, and books to global audiences. As an activist, Legend initiated the #FREEAMERICA campaign in 2015 and most recently founded the initiative HUMANLEVEL, which is igniting systematic change and building racial equity across American cities and communities.

---

GET LIFTED  
FILM CO.



## MIKE JACKSON

Mike Jackson is an Emmy® and Tony® Award-winning film, theater, and television producer. As co-founder and managing partner of Get Lifted Film Co., a production company which has developed projects with major networks including ABC, NBC, FOX, HBO, Showtime, Netflix, and FX, Jackson harnesses his Philly hustle and unparalleled tenacity to bring elevated multi-cultural content to global audiences alongside Ty Stiklorius and EGOT-winner John Legend. Jackson currently serves on the Executive Branch of the PGA as Recording Secretary and on the Board of Directors of the Austin Film Society.

In 2021 under Jackson's leadership, Get Lifted and Erik Feig's PICTURESTART formed Picture LIFT, a joint venture focused on developing, producing and financing multiple films in the \$10M range, featuring diverse filmmakers and inclusive casts. Get Lifted and Universal Studio Group's UCP inked a first-look deal for unscripted series and an exclusive multi-year overall deal for scripted content.

Jackson also hosts WHY NOT ME?, a discussion surrounding diversity in media.



## TY STIKLORIUS

Ty Stiklorius, CEO of the management and impact firm Friends at Work and Emmy® Award-winning producer and Co-Founder of Get Lifted Film Co., is a force for good who is changing the paradigm of what it means to be a woman and a CEO in the entertainment industry. A champion of innovation, social impact, and transformative initiatives, she has been included in Fast Company's Most Creative People List and named one of the most powerful women in music by Billboard.

Coming from humble beginnings in Philadelphia, Stiklorius's father, an immigrant from Lithuania and her mother, a nurse, instilled in her a love of music and a passion for activism. After earning her MBA at the Wharton School of Business, Stiklorius began a hugely successful career as a music manager, whose clients include EGOT-winning artist John Legend and four-time Grammy nominee Charlie Puth. In 2015 Stiklorius launched her own management firm, Friends at Work, which combines traditional management services with social activism and helps artists, brands and thought leaders use their power and platform to create positive change in the world. She and Legend launched the FREEAMERICA campaign to influence the national conversation regarding mass incarceration and prosecutor integrity.

---

Get Lifted's latest projects include this year's MAX documentary STAND UP AND SHOUT, which follows Philadelphia's Hill Freedman Academy; HBO documentary 1000% ME: GROWING UP MIXED from W. Kamau Bell; LOUDMOUTH, a documentary about Reverend Al Sharpton; ARTHUR, an animated feature inspired by the long time running PBS series; the film THE WAR & TREATY inspired by the life of black country music stars Michael and Tanya Trotter; the TV adaptation of S.A. Cosby's novel BLACKTOP WASTELAND; hip-hop competition series RHYTHM & FLOW for Netflix and stage productions IMITATION OF LIFE and BASQUIAT.

Aside from film/TV, Get Lifted have partnered with Zando to form Get Lifted Books, which builds upon Get Lifted Film Co.'s mission of spotlighting stories from dynamic creatives. The imprint kicked off with Rosewater, the debut novel from Liv Little, which hit shelves on April 25 to rave reviews. Their second book, Black Love Letters, featuring a foreword by John Legend, was released in October.

# *CHANGEMAKER GALA HIGHLIGHTS*

After-Party with music by DJ April Larken in the Compass VIP Lounge.



An awards presentation by  
Actor and Producer Jay Ellis



Q&A with MSNBC Anchor Katy Tur  
and Honorees John Legend, Ty Stiklorius  
and Mike Jackson



Special Performance by  
Tony Award-winner Adrienne Warren



Special performance by  
CMA 2023 Vocal Duo of the Year Award  
Nominee, The War and Treaty

# 2023 FILM JURY



**John Bernardo**

A film and video Director/Producer specializing in documentary film and digital docu-series. John has created a variety of long form content that have aired on AMC, ESPN, NBCU, and Sundance TV: e.g., “Brotherhood,” starring Emmy Award winner, Jason Sudeikis, and Grammy Award winner, Jon Batiste. His documentary on child sex abuse, “A Peloton of One,” won the JP Morgan Chase Audience Award at the Greenwich International Film Festival in 2020 and is currently running on Amazon and Apple TV.

John serves as the Creative Director for Access Cyber, a cybersecurity educational website, and for SolePack, an athletic apparel company with exclusive distribution at the NBA Store. He also just started production on two new documentaries: “Our Own Personal Realities” on the re-emergence of psychedelic drug therapies designed to help address the growing mental health crisis in the US and around the world; and “Mabuhay,” a very personal project that will honor the first big wave of Filipino-Americans who immigrated to this country in the 1960s and 1970s, including his own parents who came to America via the US Navy and a first-of-its-kind nursing exchange program with the northern provinces of the Philippines.

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**Ruth-Terry Walden**

Ruth-Terry is an educator with over twenty years of experience teaching in Connecticut. As well as teaching, Ruth-Terry serves in several leadership roles including district and statewide committees addressing multicultural content inclusion, race and equity in all classrooms. She currently teaches 12th grade English/Language Arts grounded in the humanities of art and history. She always uses seminal works of film to augment her teaching canon to foster student engagement. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Avon Theatre for the Black Lens Film Series. And is a dedicated Avon Scholarship participant encouraging her students to write about the impact that film has in their lives.

A lawyer by trade, she has honed her passion for antiracism and social justice her entire life. After serving as the director of the South Bronx community organization Neighborhood Youth and Family Services, she worked with the Yale School of Medicine, serving as the Assistant Director of Clinical Trials, Grant and Contract Administration. An avid dancer who performs, she is a member of MoJazz Dance Group. She is currently on sabbatical in Scotland on her second Fulbright at the University of Glasgow, A Russell Group University.

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**Ann Bresnan Young**

Philanthropist Ann Bresnan Young has worked in finance, real estate, and at Christie’s auction house. She has invested in both films and art. Ann and a good friend produced Thank You Films – a series of 30-second public service announcements aired nationwide for several years on cable networks aimed at thanking individual charities for the many good works they do and drawing a wider awareness to their causes. Currently, she is the President of the Bill and Ann Bresnan Foundation and believes strongly in the positive role films can play in changing lives.

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their excellence in programming  
and events in 2023

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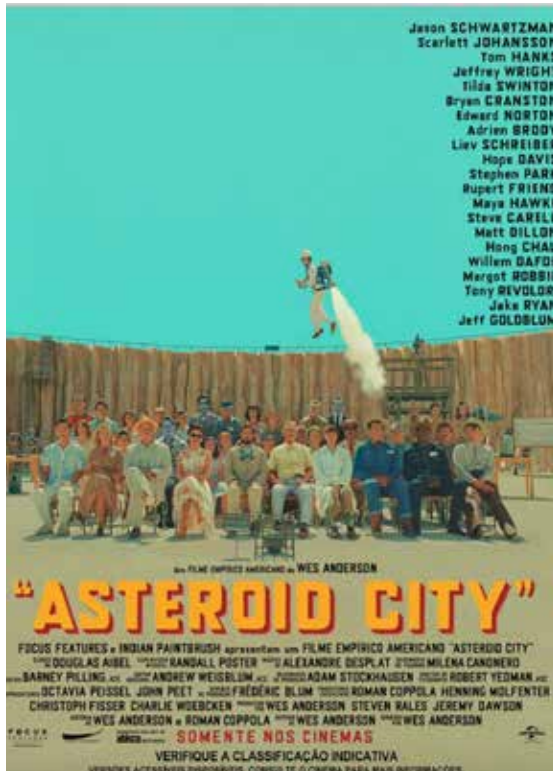
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## ASTEROID CITY

USA / 1HR 45MINS / SCI-FI-COMEDY

World-changing events spectacularly disrupt the itinerary of a Junior Stargazer/Space Cadet convention in an American desert town circa 1955.

Director: Wes Anderson

Producers: Wes Anderson, Jeremy Dawson, Steven Rales

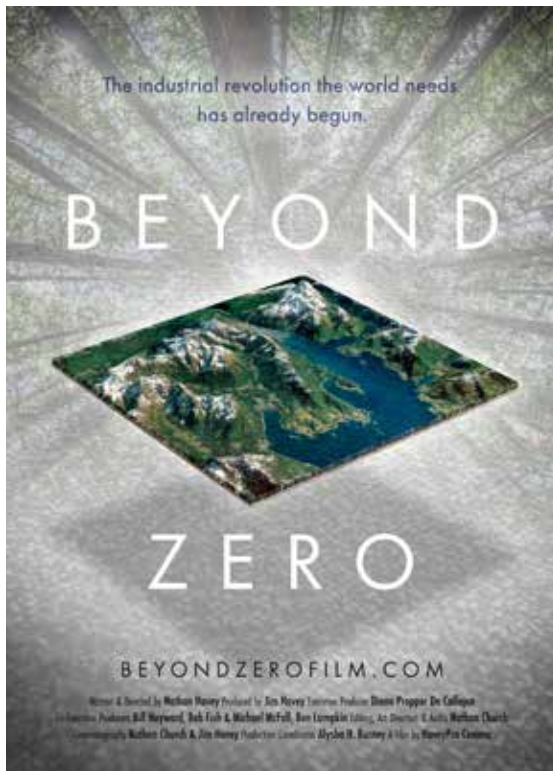
Executive Producers: Roman Coppola, Christoph Fisser, Henning Molfenter, Charlie Woebcken

Screenwriter: Wes Anderson

Editor: Barney Pilling

Dir. of Photography: Robert D. Yeoman

Cast: Jason Schwartzman, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hanks, Jeffrey Wright, Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton, Jake Ryan, Grace Edwards, Maya Hawke, Rupert Friend, Hope Davis, Steve Park, Liev Schreiber, Aristou Meehan, Ethan Josh Lee, Sophia Lillis, Ella Faris, Gracie Faris



## BEYOND ZERO

USA / 72 MINS / DOCUMENTARY

2023 HONORABLE MENTION BEST SOCIAL IMPACT FILM

Called "the most important business story of the past 100 years," the film chronicles the story of the past leader Ray Anderson and his company, Interface. After a life-changing epiphany, Ray led his team on a high-stakes journey to become a sustainable enterprise.

Director: Nathan Havey

Producer: Jim Havey

Executive Producer: Diana Propper De Callejon

Co-Executive Producers: Bill Hayward, Bob Fish, Michael McFall, Ben Lumpkin

Screenwriter: Nathan Havey

Editor: Nathan Church

Dir. of Photography: Jim Havey, Nathan Church

Cast: Ray Anderson, Graham Scott, John Lanier



## BLURRING THE COLOR LINES

USA / 77 MINS / DOCUMENTARY

What did it mean to be Chinese in Black space during segregation? Following director Crystal Kwok's personal journey of discovery, she digs into how her grandmother's family navigated life as grocery store owners in the black neighborhood of Augusta, Georgia. The film weaves personal family stories with memories from the larger Chinese and Black communities, opening up uncomfortable but necessary conversations around anti-black racism and the deeply rooted structure of white power and Chinese patriarchy that contributed to this. Which fountain did the Chinese drink from? Where did they sit on the bus? An entrance into our connected histories we never knew or dared speak about as told through the woman's lens.

Director: Crystal Kwok

Producers: Crystal Kwok, Gustin Smith

Exec. Producers: Daniel Wu, Lisa Ling, W. Kamau Bell

Consulting Producers: Contessa Gayles, Jennifer Liu

Screenwriter: Crystal Kwok

Editor: Kyung Lee

Dir. of Photography: Lou Nakasako, Matthew Hashiguchi

Cast: Phoebe Ali, Lewis Bolher, Deanna Brown



## CINEMA SABAYA

ISRAEL / 91 MINS / DRAMA

Nine women, Arab and Jewish, take part in a video workshop hosted by Rona, a young film director, who teaches them how to document their lives. With each raw homemade footage shot by the women and shared with the others, the group dynamic forces them to challenge their views and beliefs as they get to know each other and themselves better.

Director: Orit Fouks Rotem

Producers: Maya Fischer, Gal Greenspan, Roi Kurland

Executive Producers: Moshe Edery, Ori Eisen

Co-Producer: Aurélien Bodinaux

Screenwriter: Orit Fouks Rotem

Editor: Neta Dvorkis

Dir. of Photography: Itay Marom

Cast: Dana Ivgy, Joanna Said, Amal Murkus, Ruth Landau,

Yulia Tagil, Marlene Bajali, Aseel Farhat, Orit Samuel,

Liora Levi, Khawlah Hag Debsy

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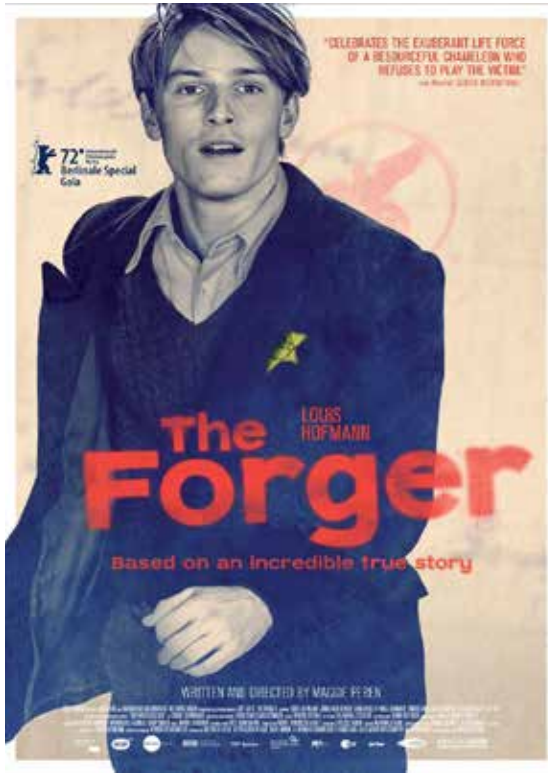
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## THE FORGER

GERMANY, LUXEMBOURG / 1HR 56MINS / DRAMA

Based on a true story of bravery in the face of evil, **THE FORGER** stars Louis Hofmann (Netflix's *Dark*) as Cioma Schönhaus, a young Jewish man who won't let anyone take away his zest for life, especially not the Nazis. Posing as a marine officer and drawing on his art school background, with just a brush, some ink, and a steady hand, he saves the lives of hundreds of fellow Jews by forging documents that allow them to escape Nazi Germany.

Director: Maggie Peren

Producers: Alexander Dumreicher-Ivanceanu, Alexander Fritzemeyer, Dietrich Kluge, Martin Kosok, Jutta Lieck-Klenke, Bady Minck

Screenwriter: Maggie Peren

Editor: Robert Sterna

Dir. of Photography: Christian Stangassinger

Cast: Louis Hofmann, Jonathan Berlin, Luna Wedler.



## GOLDA

UK, USA / 1HR 40MINS / HISTORICAL DRAMA-THRILLER

**GOLDA** is a ticking-clock thriller set during the tense 19 days of the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir (Helen Mirren), faced with the potential of Israel's complete destruction, must navigate overwhelming odds, a skeptical cabinet, and a complex relationship with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (Liev Schreiber), with millions of lives in the balance. Her tough leadership and compassion would ultimately decide the fate of her nation and leave her with a controversial legacy around the world.

Director: Guy Nattiv

Producers: Michael Kuhn, Nicholas Martin, Jane Hooks

Executive Producers: Andrew Boswell, Jamie Diner, Christopher Figg, Julie Goldstein, Hugo Grumbar, Ian Hutchinson, Andrew Karpen, Norman Merry, Louise Nathanson, Celine Rattray, Shivani Rawat, Malcolm Ritchie, Kent Sanderson, Saskia Thomas, Anna Vincent, Robert Whitehouse

Screenwriter: Nicholas Martin

Editor: Arik Lahav-Leibovich

Dir. of Photography: Jasper Wolf

Cast: Helen Mirren, Camille Cottin, Liev Schreiber



## THE HILL

2023 / 2HR 6 MIN / DRAMA

Growing up impoverished in small-town Texas, young Rickey Hill shows an extraordinary ability for hitting a baseball, despite being burdened by leg braces from a degenerative spinal disease. His stern, pastor father (DENNIS QUAID) discourages Rickey from playing baseball to protect him from injury, and to have him follow in his footsteps and become a preacher. As a young man, Rickey (COLIN FORD) becomes a baseball phenomenon. His desire to participate in a try-out for a legendary major league scout divides the family and threatens Rickey's dream of playing professional baseball. Based on a true story, *THE HILL* is directed by Jeff Celentano and also stars JOELLE CARTER, country music singer and songwriter RANDY HOUSER, Golden Globe nominee BONNIE BEDELIA, and SCOTT GLENN.

Director: Jeff Celentano

Producers: Jeff Celentano, Warren Ostergard

Screenwriters: Angelo Pizzo; Scott Marshall Smith

Editor: Douglas Crise

Dir. of Photography: Kristopher Kimlin

Cast: Dennis Quaid, Colin Ford, Joelle Carter, Randy Houser, Bonnie Bedelia, Scott Glenn



## IT'S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL

USA / 1HR 58 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

With forty years of making music as the iconic folk-rock band Indigo Girls, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have made their mark as musicians, songwriters, and dedicated activists. They have represented radical self-acceptance to many—leading now multiple generations of fans to say, “the Indigo Girls saved my life.” Still, Amy and Emily battled misogyny, homophobia, and a harsh cultural climate chastising them for not fitting into a female pop star mold. With joy, humor, and heart-warming moments, Sundance award-winning director Alexandria Bombach brings us into a contemporary conversation with Amy and Emily—alongside decades of the band's home movies and intimate present-day verité.

Director: Alexandria Bombach

Producers: Alexandria Bombach, Kathlyn Horan, Jess Devaney, Anya Rous

Executive Producers: Jenny Raskin, GERALYN WHITE DREYFOUS, Ann & Sara Lovell,

Debbie L. McLeod, Meadow Fund, Alexandra Shiva, Adam & Melony Lewis,

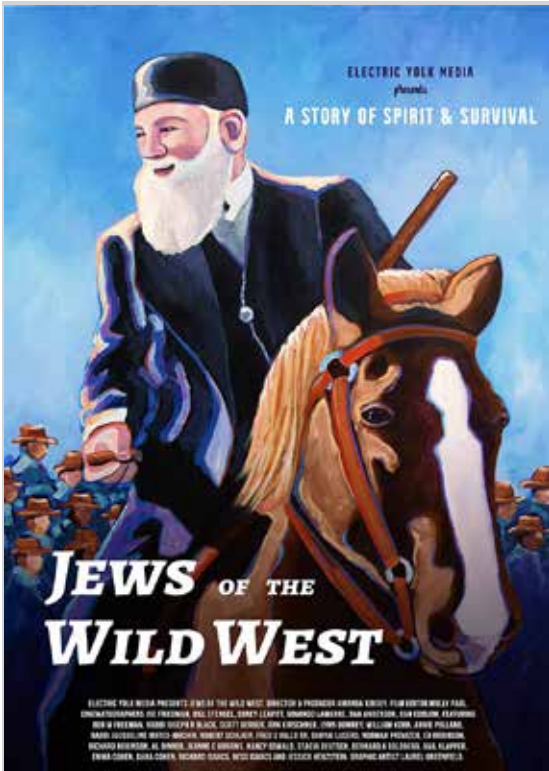
The Wadsworth Family, Jeff Pechter, Scott & Molly Forstall, Tegan Acton & Emma Pompetti

Screenwriter: Alexandria Bombach

Editor: Alexandria Bombach

Dir. of Photography: Alexandria Bombach

Cast: Emily Saliers, Amy Ray

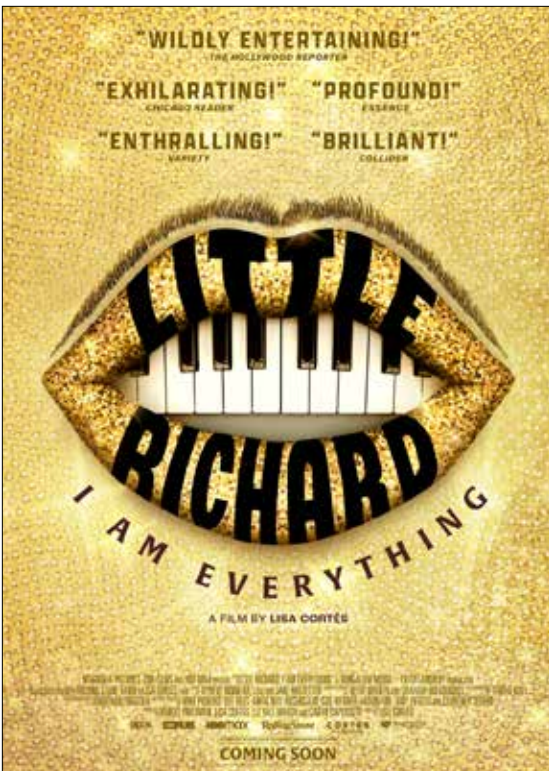


## JEWS OF THE WILD WEST

USA / 83MINS / DOCUMENTARY

JEWS OF THE WILD WEST is a feature length documentary. The independent not-for-profit film is produced by Electric Yolk Media and directed by award-winning filmmaker Amanda Kinsey. Through on-camera interviews, archival footage and photographs, the film preserves this dynamic chapter of Jewish history and the contributions made to shaping the United States. The film premiered at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival in February 2022.

Director: Amanda Kinsey  
Producers: Amanda Kinsey, Abby Oppenheim, Jill Silvestri  
Screenwriter: Amanda Kinsey  
Editors: Molly Paul, Eric Smith  
Dir. of Photography: Dan Anderson, Dan Edblom, Joseph Friedman, Domingo Lamarre, Corey Leavitt, Bill Stengel, James Chance  
Cast: Ben M. Freeman, Rabbi Joseph R. Black, Scott Gerber, Ann Kirschner, Lynn Downey

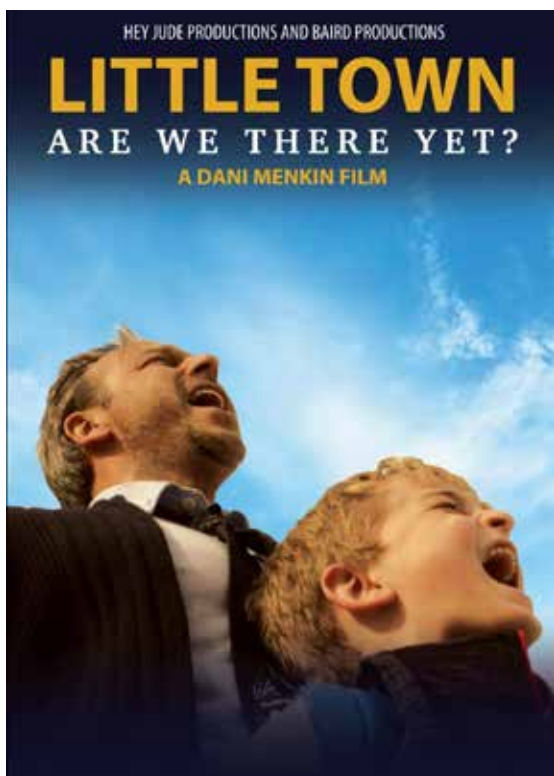


## LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING

USA / 1HR 38MINS / DOCUMENTARY  
2023 WINNER BEST SOCIAL IMPACT FILM

LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING tells the story of the Black queer origins of rock 'n' roll, exploding the whitewashed canon of American pop music to reveal the innovator –the originator– Richard Penniman. Through a wealth of archive and performance that brings us into Richard's complicated inner world, the film unspools the icon's life story with all its switchbacks and contradictions. In interviews with family, musicians, and cutting-edge Black and queer scholars, the film reveals how Richard created an art form for ultimate self-expression, yet what he gave to the world he was never able to give to himself. Throughout his life, Richard careened like a shiny cracked pinball between God, sex and rock 'n' roll. The world tried to put him in a box, but Richard was an omni being who contained multitudes – he was unabashedly everything.

Director: Lisa Cortés  
Producers: Robert Friedman, Lisa Cortés, Liz Yale Marsh, Caryn Capotosto  
Executive Producers: Dee Rees, Mike Powers, Anita May Rosentstein, Gus Wenner, Jason Fine, Amy Entelis, Courtney Sexton  
Editor: Jake Hostetter, Lead Editor: Nyvee Laura Minnear  
Dir. of Photography: Keith Walker, Graham Willoughby  
Cast: Little Richard, John Waters, Billy Porter, Mick Jagger, Paul McCartney, Tom Jones



## LITTLE TOWN

USA / 85 MINS / FAMILY-COMEDY

JASON a failed stand-up comedian in his 40s' takes his son on the road to LITTLE TOWN to find his dead mom. They drive with LAUREN, a free-spirited soul who is trying to help them get to their destination and follow their dreams.

Director: Dani Menkin  
Producers: Dani Menkin, Andrew Baird  
Screenwriter: Dani Menkin  
Editor: David C. Eichhorn  
Dir. of Photography: Tom Colley  
Cast: Jason Paul Field, Crystal St. John, Grant Stevens



## THE LOST WEEKEND: A LOVE STORY

USA / 1HR 37MINS / DOCUMENTARY

THE LOST WEEKEND: A LOVE STORY is the true tale that took 50 years to tell. It follows John Lennon and Yoko Ono's personal assistant, May Pang, as she recounts her 18-month relationship with John—a relationship orchestrated by Yoko herself. During this extraordinary period, May helped John reunite with his son Julian and participated firsthand in his most productive period post-Beatles in which he released albums like Mind Games, Walls and Bridges, and collaborated with powerhouses like David Bowie and Elton John. Featuring moments with Julian Lennon, Mick Jagger, Alice Cooper, and Paul McCartney, May chronicles it all from her unique perspective as a 22-year-old experiencing her first unforgettable love.

Director: Eve Brandstein, Richard Kaufman, Stuart Samuels  
Producers: Eve Brandstein, Christal Curry, Richard Kaufman, Stuart Samuels  
Executive Producers: Eric DeWitt, David Dinerstein, Randy and Sherry Fix, Bob Francis, Fred Freeman, Jonathan Gould, Harri Mark, John Morris, Kate Morris, Micki Purcell, Peggy Taylor  
Associate Producer: Neal Leibowitz  
Editor: Luis Martos  
Cast: May Pang, John Lennon, Julian Lennon



## THE MAN IN THE BASEMENT

FRANCE / 1HR 54MINS / DRAMA

After a Jewish couple (Jérémie Renier and The Artist's Bérénice Bejo) sell their basement to a former history teacher (The Intouchables' François Cluzet), they discover his secret life as an anti-Semitic conspiracy theorist. As the couple struggles to rescind the sale, the buyer befriends their naive teenage daughter.

Director: Philippe Le Guay  
Producer: Anne-Dominique Toussaint  
Co-producer: Philippe Le Guay  
Screenwriter: Gilles Taurand, Marc Weitzmann  
Editor: Monica Coleman  
Dir. of Photography: Guillaume Deffontaines  
Cast: François Cluzet, Bérénice Bejo, Jérémie Renier



## MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 3

USA / 1HR 31MIN / ROM-COM

From writer and director Nia Vardalos, the worldwide phenomenon MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING is back with a brand-new adventure. Join the Portokalos family as they travel to a family reunion in Greece for a heartwarming and hilarious trip full of love, twists, and turns. Opa!

Director: Nia Vardalos  
Producers: Tom Hanks, Rita Wilson, Gary Goetzman  
Executive Producers: Paul Brooks, Michael P. Flannigan, Scott Niemeyer, Steve Shreshian, Nia Vardalos  
Screenwriter: Nia Vardalos  
Editor: Annette Davey, Craig Herring  
Dir. of Photography: Barry Peterson  
Cast: Nia Vardalos, Stephanie Nur, John Corbett, Elaina Kampouris, Lainie Kazan, Andrea Martin

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## OPPENHEIMER

USA, UK / 3HRS / BIOGRAPHY- DRAMA-HISTORY

The story of American scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his role in the development of the atomic bomb. Written and directed by Christopher Nolan and featuring an all-star cast, Oppenheimer is an epic thriller that thrusts audiences into the pulse-pounding paradox of the enigmatic man who must risk destroying the world in order to save it.

Director: Christopher Nolan

Producers: Christopher Nolan, Charles Roven, Emma Thomas,

Executive Producers: Thomas Hayslip, J. David Wargo, James Woods

Screenwriter: Christopher Nolan

Editor: Jennifer Lame

Dir. of Photography: Hoyte Van Hoytema

Cast: Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Robert Downey Jr., Florence Pugh



## POLITE SOCIETY

UK / 1HR 44MINS / ACTION-COMEDY

A merry mash up of sisterly affection, parental disappointment and bold action, POLITE SOCIETY follows martial artist-in-training Ria Khan who believes she must save her older sister Lena from her impending marriage. After enlisting the help of her friends, Ria attempts to pull off the most ambitious of all wedding heists in the name of independence and sisterhood.

Director: Nida Manzoor

Producers: Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Olivier Kaempfer, John Pockock

Screenwriter: Nida Manzoor

Editor: Robbie Morrison

Dir. of Photography: Ashley Connor

Cast: Priya Kansara, Ritu Arya, Renu Brindle



## PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN

ITALY / 1 HR 35MINS / DOCUMENTARY

PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN offers an original portrayal of the story of Queen Elizabeth II from a totally new perspective: through the most intense, amazing, revealing photographic portraits of her, as shared by the extraordinary photographers who accompanied and often created the image of the British monarchy itself!

Director: Fabrizio Ferri

Producer: Franco di Sarro

Executive Producer: Ognjen Dizdarevic

Screenwriter: Paola Calvetti

Editor: Simone Bonanni, Giorgio Conti, Pietro Morana

Dir. of Photography: Fabrizio Ferri

Cast: Charles Dance, Isabella Rossellini, Susan Sarandon



## RECKONINGS

USA / 74MINS / DOCUMENTARY

They met in secret to negotiate the unthinkable – compensation for the survivors of the largest mass genocide in history. Survivors were in urgent need of help, but how could reparations be determined for the unprecedented destruction and suffering of a people? RECKONINGS explores this untold true story set in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman (Who Will Write Our History), RECKONINGS recounts the tense negotiations between Jewish and German leaders.

Director: Roberta Grossman

Producers: Roberta Grossman, Karen Heilig

Screenwriter: Roberta Grossman

Editor: Chris Callister

Dir. of Photography: Alex Pollini

Cast: Helena Weinrauch, Tova Friedman, Chava Nissimov, Irene Weiss, Serena Neumann



## THE STARLING GIRL

USA / 1HR 57MIN / DRAMA

Seventeen-year-old Jem Starling struggles to define her place within her fundamentalist Christian community in rural Kentucky. Even her greatest joy of dancing with the church group is tempered by worry that her actions are sinful and she is caught between a burgeoning awareness of her own sexuality and her religious devotion. With the return of Owen, an enigmatic youth pastor, Jem soon finds herself attracted to his worldliness and charm. Slowly he draws her into a dangerous relationship that could upend their entire community.

Director: Laurel Parmet  
Producers: Kevin Rowe, Kara Durrett  
Screenwriter: Laurel Parmet  
Editor: Sam Levy  
Dir. of Photography: Brian Lannin  
Cast: Eliza Scanlen, Lewis Pullman, Wrenn Schmidt, Austin Abrams, Jimmi Simpson

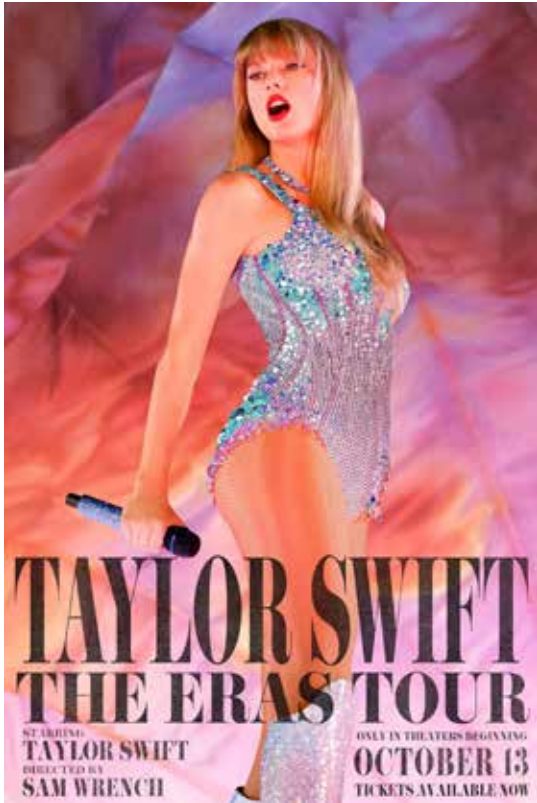


## TÁR

USA / 2HRS 38MINS / DRAMA-MUSIC

Tár is a psychological drama film about Lydia Tár, widely considered one of the greatest living composer/conductors and first-ever female chief conductor of a major German orchestra.

Director: Todd Field  
Producers: Todd Field, Scott Lambert, Alexandra Milchan  
Screenwriter: Todd Field  
Editor: Monika Willi  
Dir. of Photography: Florian Hoffmeister  
Cast: Cate Blanchett, Noémie Merlant, Nina Hoss



## TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR

USA / 2 HRS 45MINS / DOCUMENTARY-MUSIC CONCERT

The cultural phenomenon continues as pop icon Taylor Swift performs hit songs in a once-in-a-lifetime concert experience.

Director: Sam Wrench

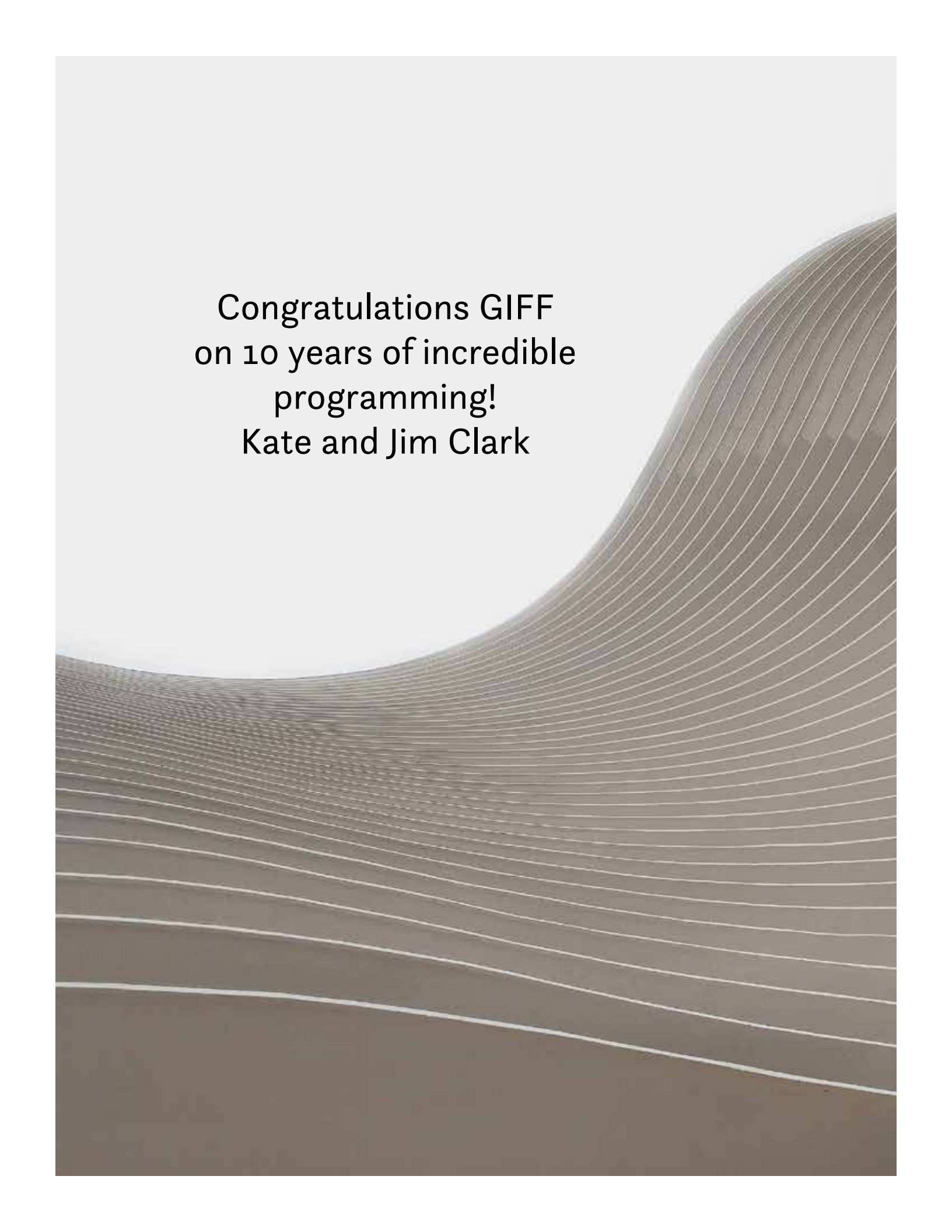
Producer: Taylor Swift, Executive Producers: Mark Bracco, Linda Gierahn, Baz Halpin

Editor: Dom Whitworth

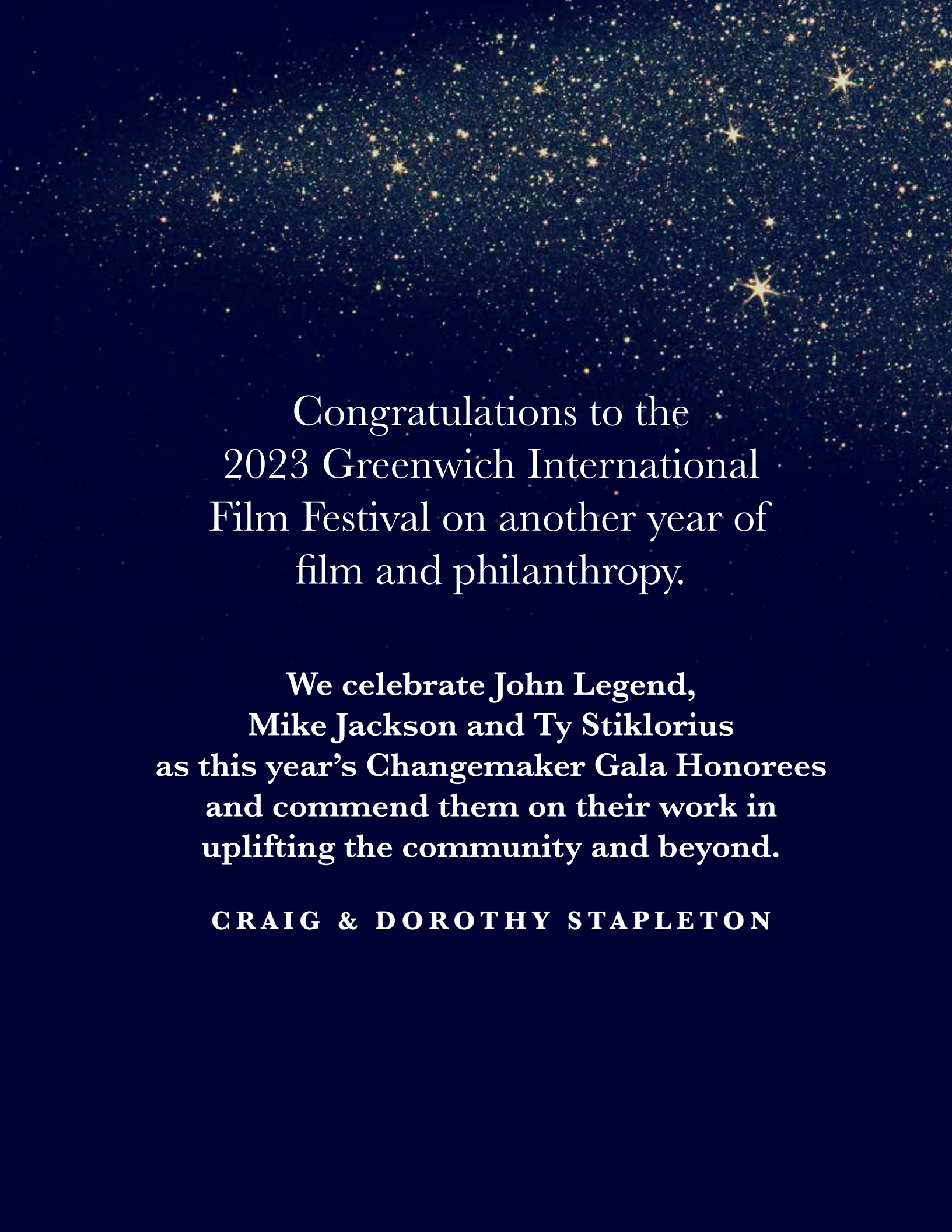
Dir. of Photography: Bret Turnbull

Cast: Taylor Swift

An advertisement for DJ April Larken. On the left, there is a stylized illustration of a woman's legs in black high heels, one leg raised, with a black feathered skirt. To the right, the text 'DJ April Larken' is written in a large, elegant script font, with 'DJ' in red. Below the name, 'SPINNING IN STYLE' is written in red capital letters. Further down, the text 'fashionable fêtes', 'glamorous galas', and 'runway shows' is written in red. At the bottom, the website 'djaprillarken.com' and phone number '203.561.3665' are listed in black.

The background of the image is an abstract composition of numerous thin, wavy, horizontal lines in shades of brown and tan. These lines flow from the bottom left towards the top right, creating a sense of movement and depth. The lines are more densely packed in some areas and more spread out in others, giving the background a textured, organic feel.

Congratulations GIFF  
on 10 years of incredible  
programming!  
Kate and Jim Clark



Congratulations to the  
2023 Greenwich International  
Film Festival on another year of  
film and philanthropy.

We celebrate John Legend,  
Mike Jackson and Ty Stiklorius  
as this year's Changemaker Gala Honorees  
and commend them on their work in  
uplifting the community and beyond.

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**Celebrates the Strassler Center for Holocaust  
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**With great appreciation for Mary Jane Rein,  
Executive Director, for her role moderating  
the Jewish Film Series Q&A**

**Special thanks to Rabbi MJ Newman for her  
inspiring work with Jewish Family Services,  
Greenwich Hospital and the Jewish Film Series**

**Greenwich International  
Film Festival  
Thanks the 2023  
Jewish Film Series  
Selection Committee**

Rebecca Colin, Ph.D, *Chair*

Michael Bergenfeld

Anne & Jake Citrin

Heather & Kristoffer Durst

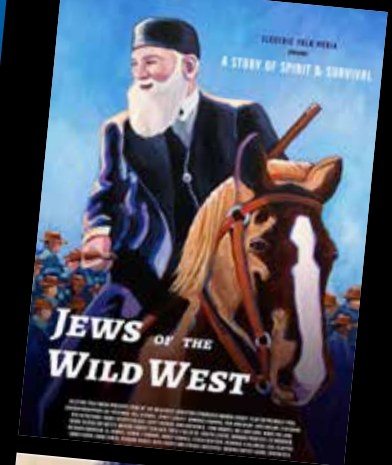
Robin & Joe Kanarek

Lisa & Michael Leffell

Eric Lowenstein

Rabbi MJ Newman

Mary Jane Rein, Ph.D



# CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

In 2023, GIFF proceeds supported two deserving charity partners, Abilis, [www.abilis.us](http://www.abilis.us), and Hill Freedman World Academy, [www.hfwa.philasd.org](http://www.hfwa.philasd.org). We invite you to learn more about these organizations!



**Hill-Freedman World Academy** mission is to provide a rigorous academic learning environment that fosters lifelong learners who are committed to being knowledgeable, caring and internationally-minded citizens. The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

The school is named after three individuals with significant roles in the history of education in Philadelphia:

Joseph E. Hill was born in Philadelphia in the summer of 1855. He graduated from the Institute for Colored Youth in June of 1873. Most of his life was spent as an instructor in the Institute, which became Cheyney State Teachers' College. He was most noted by his contemporaries as being an outstanding teacher and a tireless worker. In 1881, he and seven others organized the Amphion Society, a colored male choral association that achieved much prominence at the time. He died of pneumonia on January 18, 1892.

Samson L. Freedman was a teacher who dedicated his life to improving relations between people. He was the force behind establishing the District Six Human Relations Teachers Group. He was a prime mover in the acceptance of the P.F.T. to help teachers gain more recognition. He worked with the NAACP Northwest Branch, and was a President of the Greater West Oak Lane Coordinating Council, an umbrella group of neighborhood civil groups. After his term was completed, he started a northwest neighbors group to help stabilize a changing neighborhood population shift. He was a leader in his synagogue and lived his beliefs.

Morris E. Leeds was an electrical engineer known for inventions in the fields of electrical measuring devices and controls. He was a graduate of Haverford College and the University of Berlin, and he founded Leeds & Northrup Co, a Philadelphia electrical instrument manufacturer. He was inducted into the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Academy of Political and Social Sciences.



**Abilis** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides services and supports for over 800 individuals with special needs and their families from birth through the life span. Abilis has been a leader in serving the special needs community in lower Fairfield County for over 70 years and has a long-standing reputation for high quality care.

Abilis provides early intervention and customized therapies, as well as family education and advocacy to help individuals achieve important developmental milestones through our Therapeutic Services programs. As individuals approach and enter adulthood, we provide a wide range of Life Services programs, including recreational activities, transition and life skills support, job training, competitive and supported employment, and a choice of residential options.

Abilis works collaboratively with individuals, families, schools, and community organizations to create individualized plans that develop skills, maximize inclusion, and foster community participation. Some families work with us for weeks or months. For others, the journey lasts years or even a lifetime. In every case, Abilis' respect for people – their abilities, needs and dreams – drives everything we do.

Films allow us to experience life on ocean floors and mountain tops, from wildlife to Wall Street, from the homeless to the high rise dweller, from the innocent victim to the hardened con, from ancient Rome to the far off distant future. Films change the way we see ourselves in the world.



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Jane and Paul Shang, and Thinta Films, proudly support the entire GIFF team's inspiring and important work in film, philanthropy, and making change.

We congratulate this year's Changemaker Gala Honorees, and send the students at the Hill-Freedman World Academy in Philadelphia, our very best wishes for a successful year.

Thank you, Wendy and Ginger, for all of the amazing work you do for our community, and beyond.

**[whereibecame.com](http://whereibecame.com)**

Romare Bearden.  
Paul Cézanne.  
Marcel Duchamp.  
Henri Matisse.  
Yoko Ono.  
Lorna Simpson.  
Kay WalkingStick.  
**Mr. Bailey.**



What do the above have in common? They've all been at the forefront of an American Federation of Arts exhibition.

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## CONGRATS TO OUR OWN LEGENDS

**Kate Clark, Kim Habul and  
Victoria Triplett and, of course,  
Wendy Stapleton and Ginger Stickel  
for another amazing Changemaker Gala!**

**Ginge & Jim Cabrera**

All of Me-----Loves all of you at the Greenwich Film Festival...  
Thank you and congrats to Ginger and Wendy for the continued fun ride

I think the rest of the song lyrics to "All of Me" by John Legend are about my wife.

"What would I do without your smart mouth?"  
— Umm pretty sure I'd be happier if there was less talking  
"Drawing me in and kicking me out"  
— Not since we lived in NYC, but those were fun times  
"You've got my head spinning, no kidding, I can't pin you down"  
— Sounds a little naughty, lets keep it PG  
"I'm on your magical mystery ride"  
— please see above  
"And I'm so dizzy, don't know what hit me, but I'll be alright"  
— Most likely the booze  
"You're crazy and I'm out of my mind"  
— No truer words have ever been spoken

Love ya Eva.....  
Oh yeah...congrats to Ty, Mike, and John  
My very best.....Clay



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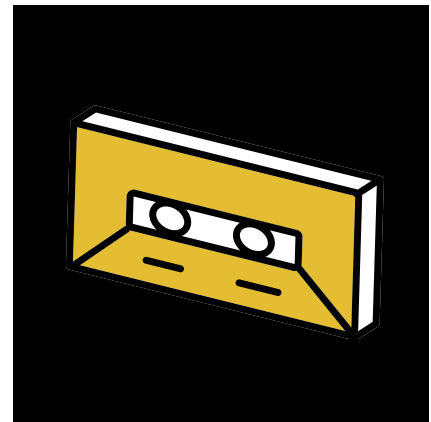
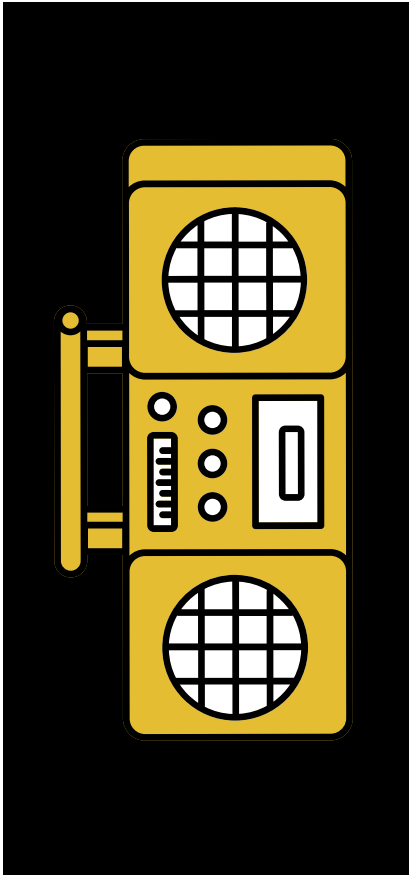
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