



Embargoed For Release Until 10:00 AM Monday, April 3rd, 2017

## **MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2017 PROGRAM**

**John Turturro, Bill Nye to join Stephen Colbert in the festival's 2017  
Conversation Series, presented by Audible**

**Zoe Lister-Jones (BAND AID), Michael Angarano & Ari Graynor (AVENUES),  
Stanley Nelson (TELL THEM WE ARE RISING), Jean Doumanian (UNA), Dolores  
Huerta (DOLORES), Steve James (ABACUS), Bettye LaVette (AMERICAN EPIC  
SESSIONS), Kenny Anderson (MR. CHIBBS), Azazel Jacobs (THE LOVERS),  
Oren Moverman (THE DINNER), Brett Haley (THE HERO), and over 150 artists  
to attend**

**Special Screening of SACRED to feature live musical performance of selections from the film's  
score, post-screening performance by Lee Ranaldo to accompany premiere of HELLO HELLO  
HELLO : LEE RANALDO : ELECTRIC TRIM**

April 3, 2017, MONTCLAIR, NJ - Today, Montclair Film announced the full program for the 6th annual Montclair Film Festival (MFF), taking place April 28 - May 7, 2017 in Montclair, NJ and featuring over 150 films, events, discussions, and parties, with over 150 filmmakers and industry guests attending.

Additionally, the festival will offer two special live music presentations. Thomas Lennon's SACRED, featuring selections from the film's score performed live under the direction of composer Edward Bilous in a post-screening presentation at the Alexander Kasser Theater at Montclair State University on Monday, May 1. Legendary guitarist and songwriter Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) will perform following the Friday, May 6th screening of Fred Riedel's HELLO HELLO HELLO : LEE RANALDO : ELECTRIC TRIM.

Today's films join the previously announced Opener STEP, Closer BAND AID, Centerpieces PATTI CAKE\$ and TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: AMERICA'S BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, and Restorations of George Romero's NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD and Andrei Tarkovsy's STALKER in the festival program.



"This year, we have been fortunate to find filmmakers who are making work that gives depth and shape to the vital conversations of our time," said Montclair Film Executive Director Tom Hall. "The festival is an opportunity for bringing audiences together with these incredible artists, so that, together, we can enjoy and engage with the images, ideas, and insights that are illuminated in these wonderful films."

## 2017 FILM COMPETITIONS AND JURIES

### DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

The Documentary Feature Competition features cinematic non-fiction films that examine the diverse possibilities of the form. The winning film in this category will be awarded the 3rd Annual Bruce Sinofsky Prize for Non-Fiction Filmmaking.

CASTING JONBENET, directed by Kitty Green  
CITY OF GHOSTS, directed by Matthew Heineman  
FOR AHKEEM, directed by Jeremy S. Levine, Landon Van Soest  
THE REAGAN SHOW, directed by Pacho Velez, Sierra Pettengill  
STRONG ISLAND, directed by Yance Ford

2017 Documentary Jury: **Joe McGovern** (*Entertainment Weekly*), **Dan O'Meara** (VP, Special Projects & Documentary, NEON), **Rosie Wong** (Sundance Film Festival)

### FICTION FEATURE COMPETITION

The Fiction Feature Competition highlights the MFF's most ambitious, auteur-driven fiction films.

AFTERIMAGE, directed by Andrzej Wajda  
CLASH, directed by Mohamed Diab  
THE COMMUNE, directed by Thomas Vinterberg  
GOOK, directed by Justin Chon  
LADY MACBETH, directed by William Oldroyd

2017 Fiction Jury: **Arianna Bocco** (EVP, Acquisitions, IFC Films), **Ashley Clark** (Critic), **Robert Eggers** (director, THE WITCH)

### FUTURE/NOW COMPETITION

The Future/Now competition celebrates American, low-budget independent filmmaking by first or second time directors who are creating innovative, challenging films.

# **MONTCLAIR** **FILM** April 28 – **FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017

BEACH RATS, directed by Eliza Hittman  
FITS & STARTS, directed by Laura Terruso  
MENASHE, directed by Joshua Z. Weinstein  
PERSON TO PERSON, directed by Dustin Guy Defa  
THE STRANGE ONES, directed by Lauren Wolkstein, Christopher Radcliff

2017 Future Now Jury: Eliza Berman (Deputy Culture Editor, TIME), Holly Herrick (Head of Film & Creative Media, Austin Film Society), Dan Nuxoll (Artistic Director, Rooftop Films).

## NEW JERSEY FILMS COMPETITION

The New Jersey Films competition this year focuses on non-fiction films directed, produced by, or featuring New Jersey talent.

ACORN AND THE FIRESTORM, directed by Reuben Atlas, Sam Pollard  
ALL WE NEED IS ANOTHER CHANCE, directed by Corbett Jones  
HELLO HELLO HELLO: LEE RANALDO: ELECTRIC TRIM, directed by Fred Riedel  
SUPERGIRL, directed by Jessie Auritt  
SWIM TEAM, directed by Lara Stolman

2017 New Jersey Films Jury: Raphaela Neihausen (Co-founder & Executive Director, DOC NYC, STRANGER THAN FICTION), Charles Poekel (director, CHRISTMAS, AGAIN), Tom Roston (Writer).

The winners, including the 3rd Annual David Carr Award honoree, will be announced on Saturday, May 6th. The festival's Audience Awards will be announced on Monday, May 8th.

## **2017 CONVERSATION SERIES, PRESENTED BY AUDIBLE**

The MFF's annual Conversation Series, presented by Audible, the world's largest seller and producer of downloadable audiobooks and other spoken word entertainment, features in-depth discussions with leading voices in the cinema and television arts. This year's line-up features:

John Turturro, star of this year's critical hit *The Night Of*, appearing in a Conversation moderated by Stephen Colbert on Sunday, April 30;

Jonathan Alter headlines the festival's Conversation "True Or False? The Challenge of Reporting In the 'Fake News' Era" on Sunday, April 30;

# **MONTCLAIR** **FILM** April 28 – **FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017

Bill Nye, appearing with his new film BILL NYE: SCIENCE GUY, joining Stephen Colbert for an extended post-screening discussion on Saturday, May 6;

2017 Emerging Black Voices Fellows Iyabo Boyd (producer, FOR AHKEEM), Sabaah Folleyan (co-director, WHOSE STREETS?), and Yance Ford (director, STRONG ISLAND), discussing their work on Saturday, May 6;

Thom Powers visiting Cinema505 at the Investors Bank Film & media Center for a live recording of his podcast Pure Nonfiction on Sunday, May 7;

The American Black Film Festival, gathering key alumni to discuss career-building for African Americans and the film festival experience on Sunday, May 7.

Additionally, the festival will open Cinema505, located inside the Investors Bank Film & media Center at 505 Bloomfield Ave in downtown Montclair, at 11:00 AM each weekend morning of the festival for complimentary coffee and moderated conversations, sponsored by Java Love Coffee Roasters.

Further Conversations may be announced at a later date.

## **2017 FILM HIGHLIGHTS**

Highlights from this year's films playing out of competition include

ABACUS: SMALL ENOUGH TO JAIL with director Steve James attending

AMERICAN EPIC SESSIONS, a sneak look at the upcoming PBS series AMERICAN EPIC, with singer Bettye LaVette attending

AVENUES, the directorial debut of star Michael Angarano (World Premiere), with Angarano and co-star Ari Graynor in attendance

BILL NYE: SCIENCE GUY, with Bill Nye attending and a post-screening Q&A with Stephen Colbert

THE DINNER, with writer director Oren Moverman attending

THE HERO, with director Brett Haley attending

THE LOVERS, with director Azazel Jacobs attending

MEAGAN LEAVEY, directed by Gabriella Cowperthwaite

PAINT IT BLACK, with writer director Amber Tamblyn in attendance

UNA, with producer Jean Doumanian in attendance for a post screening Q&A with Film4's Daniel Battsek

WHOSE STREETS? with co-director Sabaah Folleyan attending

# MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL

April 28 –  
May 7, 2017

Tickets for the Montclair Film Festival are available now for Montclair Film members, with public sales beginning Friday, April 7. Tickets and memberships may be purchased online at [montclairfilmfest.org](http://montclairfilmfest.org) or by visiting the festival's new Box Office, located inside the lobby of the Investors Bank Film & Media Center at 505 Bloomfield Avenue in downtown Montclair.

*A select set of images are available for download and use at:*

[bit.ly/2017MFFKeyFims](http://bit.ly/2017MFFKeyFims)

## ABOUT MONTCLAIR FILM

Montclair Film, a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, nurtures and showcases the talents of filmmakers from around the region and world. Montclair Film unites, empowers, educates, and celebrates our region's diverse cultural heritage and robust artistic community by presenting engaging programs and events all year long. The sixth annual Montclair Film Festival will take place from April 28 through May 7, 2017. MFF 2017 is made possible through generous support from Investors Bank; Audible; Hackensack Meridian Health; the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey; Ashenfelter, Slous, McDonough, Golia & Trevenen, LLP; Chubb; Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage; and William H. Connolly & Co., and others. Our programs are made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism and New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For information about Montclair Film, visit [www.montclairfilmfest.org](http://www.montclairfilmfest.org)

## ABOUT AUDIBLE, INC.

Audible, Inc., an [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), Inc. subsidiary (NASDAQ:AMZN), is the leading provider of premium digital spoken audio information and entertainment, offering customers a new way to enhance and enrich their lives every day. Audible was created to unleash the emotive music in language and the habituating power and utility of verbal expression. Audible content includes more than 350,000 audio programs from leading audiobook publishers, broadcasters, entertainers, magazine and newspaper publishers, and business information providers. Audible is also the provider of spoken-word audio products for Apple's iTunes Store.

For more information, please contact

FRANK PR:

Phone: 646-861-0843

Lina Plath  
[lina@frankpublicity.com](mailto:lina@frankpublicity.com)

Clare Anne Darragh  
[clareanne@frankpublicity.com](mailto:clareanne@frankpublicity.com)

**MONTCLAIR**  
**FILM** April 28 -  
**FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017



## THE FILMS OF THE 2017 MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL

### OPENING NIGHT FILM

STEP

Director: Amanda Lipitz

### DOCUMENTARY CENTERPIECE

TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: THE STORY OF BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Director: Stanley Nelson

### FICTION CENTERPIECE

PATTI CAKES

Director: Jeremy Jasper

### CLOSING NIGHT FILM

BAND AID

Director: Zoe Lister-Jones

### DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

CASTING JONBENET

Director: Kitty Green

CITY OF GHOSTS

Director: Matthew Heineman

FOR AHKEEM

Director: Jeremy S. Levine, Landon Van Soest

THE REAGAN SHOW

Director: Pacho Velez, Sierra Pettengill

STRONG ISLAND

Director: Yance Ford

### FICTION FEATURE COMPETITION

AFTERIMAGE

Director: Andrzej Wajda

CLASH

Director: Mohamed Diab

THE COMMUNE

# **MONTCLAIR** **FILM** April 28 - **FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017

Director: Thomas Vinterberg

## **GOOK**

Director: Justin Chon

## **LADY MACBETH**

Director: William Oldroyd

## **FUTURE/ NOW COMPETITION**

### **BEACH RATS**

Director: Eliza Hittman

### **FITS & STARTS**

Director: Laura Terruso

### **MENASHE**

Director: Joshua Z. Weinstein

### **PERSON TO PERSON**

Director: Dustin Guy Defa

### **THE STRANGE ONES**

Director: Lauren Wolkstein, Christopher Radcliff

## **NEW JERSEY FILMS COMPETITION**

### **ACORN AND THE FIRESTORM**

Director: Reuben Atlas, Sam Pollard

### **ALL WE NEED IS ANOTHER CHANCE**

Director: Corbett Jones

### **HELLO HELLO HELLO : LEE RANALDO: ELECTRIC TRIM**

Director: Fred Riedel

### **SUPERGIRL**

Director: Jessie Auritt

### **SWIM TEAM**

Director: Lara Stolman

## **FEATURE FILMS**

**ABACUS: SMALL ENOUGH TO JAIL**



**MONTCLAIR**  
**FILM** April 28 -  
**FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017

Director: Steve James

**AMERICAN EPIC SESSIONS**

Director: Bernard MacMahon

**AMERICAN VETERAN**

Director: Julie Cohen

**AVENUES**

Director: Michael Angarano

**BENDING THE ARC**

Director: Kief Davidson, Pedro Kos

**BILL NYE: SCIENCE GUY**

Director: David Alvarado, Jason Sussberg

**BLAME**

Director: Quinn Shephard

**BRAVE NEW JERSEY**

Director: Jody Lambert

**BRIMSTONE & GLORY**

Director: Viktor Jakovleski

**BURDEN**

Director: Timothy Marrinan, Richard Dewey

**CHAVELA**

Director: Catherine Gund, Daresha Kyi

**CHUCK**

Director: Philippe Falardeau

**THE CINEMA TRAVELERS**

Director: Shirley Abraham, Amit Madheshiya

**THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON**

Director: David France

**DINA**

Director: Antonio Santini, Dan Sickles

**THE DINNER**

Director: Oren Moverman

**MONTCLAIR**  
**FILM** April 28 -  
**FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017

**DO DONKEYS ACT?**

Director: David Redmon, Ashley Sabin

**DOLORES**

Director: Peter Bratt

**ELIÁN**

Director: Tim Golden, Ross McDonnell

**FOR GRACE**

Director: Sebastian Armesto

**HERMIA & HELENA**

Director: Matías Piñeiro

**THE HERO**

Director: Brett Haley

**INFINITY BABY**

Director: Bob Byington

**INTO THE WHO KNOWS!**

Director: Micah Barber

**LETTERS FROM BAGHDAD**

Directors: Zeva Oelbaum and Sabine Krayenbühl

**A LIFE IN WAVES**

Director: Brett Whitcomb

**LOST IN PARIS**

Director: Dominique Abel, Fiona Gordon

**THE LOVERS**

Director: Azazel Jacobs

**MAUDIE**

Director: Aisling Walsh

**MEGAN LEAVEY**

Director: Gabriela Cowperthwaite

**MOTHERLAND**

Director: Ramona S. Diaz

**MR. CHIBBS**

Director: Jill Campbell

**MONTCLAIR**  
**FILM** April 28 –  
**FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017

**NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD (1968)**

Director: George A. Romero

**NO MAN'S LAND**

Director: David Byars

**PAINT IT BLACK**

Director: Amber Tamblyn

**PARADISE**

Director: Andrei Konchalovsky

**PARIS CAN WAIT**

Director: Eleanor Coppola

**SACRED**

Director: Thomas Lennon

**SPETACCOLO**

Director: Jeff Malmberg, Chris Shellen

**STRANGER IN PARADISE**

Director: Guido Hendriks

**STALKER (1979)**

Director: Andrei Tarkovsky

**THE TEACHER**

Director: Jan Hřebejk

**THIRST STREET**

Director: Nathan Silver

**THROUGH THE REPELLENT FENCE: A LAND ART FILM**

Director: Sam Wainwright Douglas

**TROPHY**

Director: Christina Clusiau, Shaul Schwarz

**THE TRANSFIGURATION**

Director: Michael O'Shea

**UNA**

Director: Benedict Andrews

**THE UNTOLD TALES OF ARMISTEAD MAUPIN**

# MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL

April 28 –  
May 7, 2017

Director: Jennifer M. Kroot

## WHOSE STREETS?

Director: Sabaah Folayan, Co-Director Damon Davis

## SHORT FILMS

### SHORTS: DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

#### 116 CAMERAS

Directed: Davina Pardo

#### DANGEROUS CURVES

Director: Merete Mueller

#### EDITH+EDDIE

Director: Laura Checkoway

#### GUT HACK

Director: Mario Furloni, Kate McLean

#### LOS ANGELES PLAYS NEW YORK

Director: John Wilson

#### PORT OF ENTRY

Director: Andrea Meller, Marisa Pearl

### SHORTS: DREAM SHORTS

#### BLACKOUT

Director: Jordan Baseman

#### BUSINESS

Director: Kati Skelton

#### CLEAN HANDS

Director: Lauren DeFilippo

#### DEEP BLUE

Director: Joe Nankin

#### IT'S A DATE

Director: Zachary Zezima

#### KAIJU BUNRAKU

Director: Lucas Leyva, Jillian Mayer

#### KOOKIE

Director: Justin Harding

#### SHOT

Director: Aemilla Scott

# MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL

April 28 –  
May 7, 2017

## SHORTS: FICTION SHORTS

AMERICAN PARADISE

Director: Joe Talbot

FOX

Director: Jacqueline Lentzou

FRY DAY

Director: Laura Moss

THE SAURUS

Director: Drew Maynard

PLAIN AND SIMPLE

Director: Raphael Ouellet

THEY CHARGE FOR THE SUN

Director: Terence Nance

VALENCIA

Director: Logan George

## SHORTS: LUNAFEST SHOWCASE

ANOTHER KIND OF GIRL

Director: Khaldiya Jibawi

FAMILY TALE

Director: Patricia Beckmann-Wells

FREE TO LAUGH

Director: Lara Everly

THE HONEYS AND BEARS

Director: Veena Rao

JOIN THE CLUB

Director: Eva Vives

NANNY

Director: Diane Weipert

NKOSI COIFFURE

Director: Frederike Migom

PARTNERS

Director: Joey Ally

THE THIRD DAD

# **MONTCLAIR** **FILM** April 28 - **FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017

Director: Theresa Moerman Ib

## SHORTS: MONTCLAIR SHORTS

ACE

Director: Morgan Kahn Nichols

THE BAKE SALE

Director: Susan Skoog

LIGHTNINGFACE

Director: Brian Petsos

MOMTRESS

Director: Liz Samuel, Jeremiah Kipp

TWENTYSOMETHING

Director: Avital Siegel

## SHORTS: NEW JERSEY SHORTS

CAT KILLER

Director: Wes Jones

COWTOWN

Director: Greg Kohs

DEKALB ELEMENTARY

Director: Reed Van Dyk

I AM YOUR FRIEND

Director: Nicholas Payne Santos

LILY

Director: Mimi Jeffries

MOVE ME

Director: Gabe Crate

UNPRESIDENTED

Director: Jason Giampietro

## SHORTS: FOR ALL AGES

THE ALAN DIMENSION

Director: Jac Clinch

AUTO

Director: Conner Griffith

BIRDLIME

Director: Evan DeRushie

# **MONTCLAIR** **FILM** April 28 – **FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017

FROLIC 'N MAE

Director: Danny Madden

THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH

Director: Ceylan Carhoglu, Ryan King

I, DESTINI

Director: Destini Riley, Nicholas Pilarski

POST NO BILLS

Director: Robin Hays, Andy Poon

SANCTUARY

Director: Ashley Seering, Cory Byers

SCENT OF GERANIUM

Director: Naghmeh Farzaneh

## STUDENT SHORTS

FARES

Director: Thora Lorentzen

HOLD ME (CA CAW CA CAW)

Director: Renee Zhan

ORIGIN

Director: Jordan Nikolic

PRIA

Director: Yudho Aditya

THE SANDMAN

Director: Lauren Knapp

SUBMARINE

Director: Mounia Akl

## **SHORTS: TRUE OR FALSE? THE LURE OF THE FALSE NARRATIVE**

JFK TO PIZZAGATE: SHADOWS OF CONSPIRACY

Director: Retro Report

LIES, LEAKS, AND CONSEQUENCES

Director: Retro Report

LIEBECK V. MCDONALD'S: THE BIG BURN

Director: Retro Report

THE SUPERPREDATOR SCARE

Director: Retro Report

**MONTCLAIR**  
**FILM** April 28 -  
**FESTIVAL** May 7, 2017

UNRAVELING ZERO TOLERANCE

Director: Retro Report

VACCINES: AN UNHEALTHY SKEPTICISM

Director: Retro Report

SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES

BALLOONFEST

Director: Nathan Truesdell

EVEREADY

Director: Paul Szynol

PARAFFIN

Director: Emily Hubley

RABBIT HUNT

Director: Patrick Bresnan

SPIRAL JETTY

Director: Ricky D'ambrose