



For Immediate Release

MONTCLAIR FILM LAUNCHES STORYSLAM PROGRAM

Monthly storytelling event open to all storytellers, to be hosted by Risa Barash and featuring music from The Tall Pines, launches January 27, 2018

JANUARY 4, 2018, MONTCLAIR, NJ - Montclair Film today announced the launch of StorySLAM, a new, monthly storytelling event hosted by Risa Barash and featuring music from New York City duo The Tall Pines. The inaugural event will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2018 at 7:30 PM at Cinema505, located at 505 Bloomfield Avenue in downtown Montclair. Tickets are \$10 for the general public, \$8 for Montclair Film Members and the event is open to all, writers and listeners alike.

Writers and storytellers are encouraged to prepare a five-minute story around the evening's theme (January's inaugural theme is, appropriately, *My First Time*), and all storytellers will be asked to place their name in a hat upon arrival. The evening will begin with music from our house band The Tall Pines, and storytellers will be chosen from the hat by our host, Risa Barash. Storytellers selected in the drawing will have five minutes on stage to share their work (The Tall Pines will play off any participants who go past the designated time), and a panel of local judges will select a winning story at the end of each event.

Future events will be held on February 17th and March 24th, as well as a special evening for Young Storytellers held on March 18th, with winners from each event invited to participate in a special program of storytelling presented at the Wellmont Theater on Saturday, April 28th at the 2018 Montclair Film Festival. Themes for future events will be announced soon.

"We're excited to continue to support the power of storytelling with our new StorySlam program," said Montclair Film Executive Director Tom Hall. "We are committed to creating spaces for our community to give voice to their ideas and experiences while also having a great time. This event promises to be a lot of fun and we look forward to hearing amazing stories come to life on our stage."

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 seventh annual Montclair Film Festival will take place from April 26 through May 6, 2018. Montclair Film's year-round and festival programming 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.montclairfilm.org

ABOUT THE TALL PINES

MONTCLAIR FILM

The Tall Pines are a shack-shakin', foot-stompin' duo featuring Connie Lynn Petruk singing and playing drums on her alligator suitcase, her partner Christmas Davis plays guitar and sings along. "The Tall Pines are equal parts soul and twang, molasses and moonshine, sass and skill. The songs, all written by Christmas Davis evoke the hay-day of the country-soul hybrid without ever sounding unoriginal, a difficult feat." – Meredith Ochs, *NPR*. "Given the success enjoyed by bands like Alabama Shakes and Shovels and Rope, this deserves to be huge." – *The Soul of a Clown/ UK Blog*. "In a world where we are so often overpowered by all that is around us, The Tall Pines strip things back and bring with them, through their music, a much-needed reminder that sometimes simpler is better – it certainly is here" – *Popwrapped*. "Connie Lynn Petruk and Christmas Davis deliver gritty yet soulful folk music that gets your hands clapping and your feet stomping." - *The Shotgun Seat*. "The Civil Wars are certainly civil compared to The Tall Pines. They do not fear to tread where more tender souls would be burned to a crisp." – Amos Perrine, *No Depression*. Connie & Christmas are at work on a new record for now. Look for it in late Spring, 2018.

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