MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2018 PROGRAM

Festival to Open with Rachel Dretzin’s FAR FROM THE TREE, Don Argott’s BELIEVER set for Closing Night, Brett Haley’s HEARTS BEAT LOUD and Kate Novack’s THE GOSPEL ACCORING TO ANDRÉ presented as Centerpiece Films

Jeff Daniels, Ethan Hawke, Taylor Mac, Nick Offerman, and Rachel Weisz to participate in Storyteller Series, presented by Audible

Claire Danes, André Leon Talley, Dan Reynolds, and Paul Schrader will attend special post-screening Q&As

Taylor Mac to perform A 24-DECADE HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC (ABRIDGED) at the festival

To apply for press accreditation please fill out the credential form HERE.

April 5, 2018, MONTCLAIR, NJ - Today, Montclair Film announced the full program for the 7th annual Montclair Film Festival (MFF), presented by Investors Bank, taking place April 26 - May 6, 2018, in Montclair, NJ and featuring over 160 films, events, discussions, and parties, with over 150 filmmakers and industry guests attending.

The festival will open on Thursday, April 26, with a screening of Rachel Dretzin’s FAR FROM THE TREE, with the director attending alongside subject and prize-winning author and journalist Andrew Solomon, from whose book the film was adapted. The film explores how parents and children work to reconcile profound differences within the context of their families, and is a richly drawn portrait of the power of diversity, challenging our conventional understanding of “normalcy” and celebrating the limitless potential of the human spirit in all of its wondrous forms. FAR FROM THE TREE is a Sundance Selects release.

On Saturday, May 5, Don Argott’s BELIEVER will screen as the festival’s Closing Night Film, with the director, producer Sheena Joyce, and subject Dan Reynolds, lead singer for the chart-topping band Imagine Dragons, in attendance for a post-screening Q&A moderated by Stephen Colbert. Raised within the culture of the Mormon church, Dan Reynolds went on to form Imagine Dragons, one of the biggest rock and roll bands in the world. Dan comes to a crossroads when he witnesses fellow members of the Mormon church spurned due to their sexual orientation. Since 2008, teen suicide rates in Utah have skyrocketed, which many people attribute to the Mormon church’s official stance regarding same-sex relationships. BELIEVER is a portrait of an artist determined to change the world through understanding, compassion, and love. Produced by Live Nation Productions, BELIEVER is an HBO Documentary Film.
For the festival’s Narrative Centerpiece, director Brett Haley returns to the festival with his new film HEARTS BEAT LOUD, starring Nick Offerman. Haley and Offerman will participate in a post-screening Q&A. HEARTS BEAT LOUD is a warm, luminous exploration of the bittersweet joys of family, romance, and the ties that bind us. HEARTS BEAT LOUD is a Gunpowder & Sky release.

The festival’s Documentary Centerpiece, THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ANDRÉ, will feature a post-screening Q&A with director Kate Novack, producer Andrew Rossi, and the film’s iconic subject, André Leon Talley. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ANDRÉ unites André’s childhood experiences with his elegant grandmother and the Black Church with his rise as a global tastemaker at magazines like Women’s Wear Daily, W, and Vogue, to tell the story of the transformational career of one of the most iconic figures in fashion. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ANDRÉ is a Magnolia Pictures release.

This year’s Storyteller Series, presented by Audible, features conversations with the leading voices in the festival’s program and includes Academy Award® winner Rachel Weisz in Conversation with Stephen Colbert (April 28), Nick Offerman in Conversation with Patrick Wilson (May 5), 2017 MacArthur fellow Taylor Mac in Conversation (May 5), Emmy Award® winner Jeff Daniels in Conversation with Stephen Colbert (May 5), and Tony and four-time Academy Award nominee Ethan Hawke in Conversation with Stephen Colbert (May 6). The program will also feature the festival’s first annual StorySLAM, presented in partnership with Red Nose Day USA and featuring surprise guests (April 28), and a Master Class with screenwriter Richard Wesley (May 5).

The festival welcomes director Silas Howard and star Claire Danes for a Q&A following a screening of their new film A KID LIKE JAKE (May 5), and legendary writer and director Paul Schrader for an extended Q&A following a screening of his latest film, FIRST REFORMED (May 6).

The festival also announced films in its Documentary, Fiction, Future/Now, and New Jersey Film competitions, to be awarded at a ceremony on May 5, as well as the complete lineup of feature and short films in the festival program.

Today’s films and events join Taylor Mac’s previously announced A 24-DECADE HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC (ABRIDGED), set for May 4 at 7:00 pm, in the festival program.

“This year’s program speaks directly to the universal need for individuals and communities to connect with one another, to find and extend empathy,” said Montclair Film Executive Director Tom Hall. “We are honored to welcome a diverse array of artists to this year’s festival, and grateful to be able to share their stories, stories that challenge and engage, offering audiences the opportunity to come together, to exchange ideas, and to forge deeper and stronger bonds with one another.”

2018 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 4th Annual Bruce Sinofsky Prize for Non-Fiction Filmmaking.

BLACK MOTHER, directed by Khalik Allah
HALE COUNTY THIS MORNING, THIS EVENING, directed by RaMell Ross
MAKALA, directed by Emmanuel Gras
SHIRKERS, directed by Sandi Tan
TRE MAISON DASAN, directed by Denali Tiller

2018 Documentary Jury: Patrick Harrison, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Gregory Wakeman, Metro New York, Chris O’Falt, Indiewire

FICTION FEATURE COMPETITION
The Fiction Feature Competition highlights the MFF’s most ambitious, auteur-driven fiction films.

BEAST, directed by Michael Pearce
DARK RIVER, directed by Clio Barnard
FIRST REFORMED, directed by Paul Schrader
POROROCA, directed by Constantin Popescu
WHO WE ARE NOW, directed by Matthew Newton

2018 Fiction Jury: Richard Lawson, Vanity Fair, Nekesa Moody, Associated Press, David Fear, Rolling Stone

FUTURE/NOW COMPETITION
The Future/Now Competition celebrates American, low-budget independent filmmaking by first or second time feature film directors who are creating innovative, challenging films. Presented by The Horizon Foundation of New Jersey.

MADELINE’S MADAME, directed by Josephine Decker
NEVER GOIN’ BACK, directed by Augustine Frizzell
NOTES ON AN APPEARANCE, directed by Ricky D’Ambrose
WE THE ANIMALS, directed by Jeremiah Zagar
WHEN SHE RUNS, directed by Robert Machoian and Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck

2018 Future Now Jury: Jim Brunzell, All Genders, Lifestyles and Identities Film Festival (aGLIFF), Stacey Reiss, Filmmaker, Jason Benjamin, Filmmaker

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

306 HOLLYWOOD, directed by Elan Bogarin and Jonathan Bogarin
THE 5 BROWNS: DIGGING THROUGH THE DARKNESS, directed by Ben Niles
CRIME + PUNISHMENT, directed by Stephen Maing
DARK MONEY, directed by Kimberly Reed
LIYANA, directed by Aaron Kopp and Amanda Kopp

2018 New Jersey Films Jury: Libby Geist, ESPN, Deirdre Haj, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Amy Kuperinsky, Newark Star Ledger

Competition winners, including the 4th Annual David Carr Award for Truth in Non-Fiction Filmmaking, will be announced on Saturday, May 5. The festival’s Audience Awards, presented by Investors Bank, will be announced on Monday, May 8.
Tickets for the Montclair Film Festival are available Monday, April 9, for Montclair Film members, with public sales beginning Friday, April 13. Tickets and memberships may be purchased online at montclairfilm.org or by visiting the festival’s Box Office, located inside the lobby of the Investors Bank Film & Media Center at 505 Bloomfield Avenue in downtown Montclair.

The complete 2018 Film program is attached to this release. A select set of images are available for download and use at: http://bit.ly/ImagesMFF2018Announcement

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, Trembulak, McDonough, Golia & Trevenen, LLP; Chubb; Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage; William H. Connolly & Co.; The Nature Conservancy, and others. Our programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism, as well as the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For information about Montclair Film, visit www.montclairfilm.org

ABOUT AUDIBLE, INC.
Audible, Inc., an Amazon.com, Inc. subsidiary (NASDAQ:AMZN), is the leading provider of premium digital spoken audio content, 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 400,000 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.

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THE FILMS OF THE 2018 MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL

Feature Films

OPENING NIGHT FILM
FAR FROM THE TREE
Director: Rachel Dretzin

DOCUMENTARY CENTERPIECE
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ANDRÉ
Director: Kate Novack

FICTION CENTERPIECE
HEARTS BEAT LOUD
Director: Brett Haley

CLOSING NIGHT FILM
BELIEVER
Director: Don Argott

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION
BLACK MOTHER
Director: Khalik Allah

HALE COUNTY THIS MORNING, THIS EVENING
Director: RaMell Ross

MAKALA
Director: Emmanuel Gras

SHIRKERS
Director: Sandi Tan

TRE MAISON DASAN
Director: Denali Tiller

FICTION FEATURE COMPETITION
BEAST
Director: Michael Pearce

DARK RIVER
Director: Clio Barnard

FIRST REFORMED
Director: Paul Schrader
POROROCA
Director: Constantin Popescu

WHO WE ARE NOW
Director: Matthew Newton

FUTURE/NOW COMPETITION
Presented by The Horizon Foundation of New Jersey

MADELINE’S MADELINE
Director: Josephine Decker

NEVER GOIN’ BACK
Director: Augustine Frizzell

NOTES ON AN APPEARANCE
Director: Ricky D’Ambrose

WE THE ANIMALS
Director: Jeremiah Zagar

WHEN SHE RUNS
Directors: Robert Machoian, Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck

NEW JERSEY FILMS COMPETITION

306 HOLLYWOOD
Directors: Elan Bogarin, Jonathan Bogarin

THE 5 BROWNS: DIGGING THROUGH THE DARKNESS
Director: Ben Niles

CRIME + PUNISHMENT
Director: Stephen Maing

DARK MONEY
Director: Kimberly Reed

LIYANA
Director: Aaron Kopp, Amanda Kopp

FEATURE FILMS

AMERICAN ANIMALS
Director: Bart Layton

AMERICAN CHAOS
Director: James D. Stern

BAD REPUTATION
Director: Kevin Kerslake
BLAZE
Director: Ethan Hawke

BOBBY KENNEDY FOR PRESIDENT
Director: Dawn Porter

BOOM FOR REAL: THE LATE TEENAGE YEARS OF JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT
Director: Sara Driver

THE CHILDREN ACT
Director: Richard Eyre

CLOGENESS
Director: Kantemir Balagov

CROSSROADS
Director: Ron Yassen

CUSTODY
Director: Xavier Legrand

DAMSEL
Directors: David Zellner, Nathan Zellner

DISOBEIENCIENCE
Director: Sebastián Lelio

DON'T LEAVE HOME
Director: Michael Tully

EIGHTH GRADE
Director: Bo Burnham

GENERATION WEALTH
Director: Lauren Greenfield

THE GUARDIANS
Director: Xavier Beauvois

THE GUILTY
Director: Gustav Möller

HAL
Director: Amy Scott

HAYATUNA
Directors: Stephen McCarthy, David Sanders

I AM NOT A WITCH
Director: Rungano Nyoni

I CAN'T... I HAVE REHEARSAL
Director: Madeline Orton

INSTRUCTIONS ON PARTING
Director: Amy K. Jenkins
INVENTING TOMORROW
Director: Laura Nix

A KID LIKE JAKE
Director: Silas Howard

LOVE GILDA
Director: Lisa Dapolito

MADE A MOVIE, LIVED TO TELL
Directors: William J. Murray, Keith Reamer

THE MISOGYNISTS
Director: Onur Tukel

A MURDER IN MANSFIELD
Director: Barbara Kopple

NICO, 1988
Director: Susanna Nicchiarelli

NOSSA CHAPE
Directors: Jeff Zimbalist, Michael Zimbalist

ON CHESIL BEACH
Director: Dominic Cooke

ON HER SHOULDERS
Director: Alexandria Bombach

PAPILLON
Director: Michael Noer

PORCUPINE LAKE
Director: Ingrid Veninger

PORTRAIT OF A LIBRARY (1940)
Director: Hans Burger

THE RACHEL DIVIDE
Director: Laura Brownson

RBG
Directors: Julie Cohen, Betsy West

SAMMY DAVIS, JR.: I’VE GOTTA BE ME
Director: Sam Pollard

THE SEAGULL
Director: Michael Mayer

THE SENTENCE
Director: Rudy Valdez

SONS OF THE DESERT (1933)
Director: William A. Seiter

SPIRAL
Director: Laura Fairrie

STUDIO 54
Director: Matt Tyrnauer

SUPPORT THE GIRLS
Director: Andrew Bujalski

TED WILLIAMS
Director: Nick Davis

THE THIRD MURDER
Director: Hirokazu Koreeda

THIS ONE'S FOR THE LADIES
Director: Gene Graham

THREE IDENTICAL STRANGERS
Director: Tim Wardle

TUNES OF GLORY (1960)
Director: Ronald Neame

WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY
Director: Madeleine Olnek

WILD WAY OF THE VIKINGS
Director: Nigel Pope

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?
Director: Morgan Neville

ZOO
Director: Colin McIvor

SHORT FILMS

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS 1

BIG PARADISE
Directors: JP Olsen, Kristen Nutile

HOME EXERCISES
Director: Sarah Friedland

LITTLE FIELD
Director: Irina Patkanian

MY DEAD DAD'S PORNO TAPES
Director: Charlie Tyrell

QUIET HOURS
Director: Paul Szynol

REBUILDING IN MINIATURE
Director: Veena Rao

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS 2

THE DRIVER IS RED
Director: Randall Christopher

EMPIRE ON MAIN STREET
Director: Jessica Congdon

LAS NUBES
Director: Juan Pablo González

LESSONS FROM A SCHOOL SHOOTING
Director: Kim A. Snyder

LITTLE BROTHER
Director: Dominique van Olm

WHILE I YET LIVE
Director: Maris Curran

FICTION SHORTS 1

CAROLINE
Directors: Logan George & Celine Held

CHEER UP BABY
Director: Adinah Dancyger

GAZE
Director: Farnoosh Samadi

KRISTA
Director: Danny Madden

MAUDE
Director: Anna Margaret Hollyman

MOTHER, MOTHER
Directors: Robert Machoian, Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck

WAR PAINT
Director: Katrellle N. Kindred

FICTION SHORTS 2

BRAZUCA
Director: Faidon Gkretsikos
FAUVE
Director: Jérémy Comte

MANIVALD
Director: Chintis Lundgren

NEVADA
Director: Emily Ann Hoffman

ROOF KNOCKING
Director: Sina Salimi

STEALING SILVER
Director: Mark Lobatto

FILMMAKERS UNITE (Curated by Jay Rosenblatt & Ellen Bruno)
Filmmakers Jay Rosenblatt (THE SMELL OF BURNING ANTS; HUMAN REMAINS; PHANTOM LIMB; THE DARKNESS OF DAY) and Ellen Bruno (SAMSARA; SATYA; SACRIFICE; SPLIT) have curated a collection of films that documents responses to the current state of our union.

BROTHERS
Directors: David Sampliner, Rachel Shuman

FELLOW AMERICAN
Director: Eva Ilona Brzeski

A FINE INITIAL ACT
Director: Jeremy Rourke

THE GOOD MOTHER
Director: Sarah Clift

LITTLE DONNIE
Director: Chel White

THE MUSLIM MEME
Director: Usama Alshaibi

SCARED VERY SCARED
Director: Jay Rosenblatt

THE STARTING LINE
Directors: Pacho Velez, Nicole Salazar

STATE OF THE UNION
Director: Alan Berliner

THIS IS MY COUNTRY
Directors: Kris Samuelson, John Haptas

THE TOOL
Directors: Kate Amend, Pablo Bryant

THE UNITED STATES
Director: Ferne Pearlstein
WHO MATTERS?
Director: Shy Hamilton

MIDNIGHT SHORTS

COMMERCIAL FOR THE QUEEN OF MEATLOAF
Director: Dina Fiasconaro

HAIR WOLF
Director: Mariama Diallo

THE LEGEND OF RASPUTIN
Director: Jamie Shannon

MOTHER F*CKER
Director: Nicholas Payne Santos

PAINTING WITH JOAN
Director: Jack Henry Robbins

PIE
Director: Adria Tennor

THE RIGHT CHOICE
Director: Tomisin Adepeju

UNTITLED GROPING REVENGE FAIRYTALE
Director: Catherine Bisley

MONTCLAIR SHORTS

ARCADE WARS
Director: Phil Mazo

BOY BOY GIRL GIRL
Director: Ross Kauffman

BROKEN WING
Director: Danny Monico

THE EMINENT CARMINE CRAIG
Director: Adam Roat

HOUSE RULES
Director: Sean Robinson

MARSHA PIP
Director: Tiffany Jackman

READY FOR LOVE
Directors: Dylan Pasture, Lauren McCune
MSU BFA FILMMAKING NEW VISIONS SHORTS
Montclair State University College of the Arts, School of Communication and Media, Filmmaking BFA Program presents New Visions 2018. This year’s theme is Resist Definition. Six visually powerful and emotionally moving short films made by MSU Filmmaking BFA’s finest filmmakers.

DIRTY BABY
Director: Alexander Zuccaro

ELYUVI
Director: Trevor Stephney

HIT ME UP
Director: Michelle Martinez

LAUNDRY DAY
Director: Peter Dolshun

PAUL
Director: Nick Capra

UNDEFINED: A MUSLIM-AMERICAN MUSICAL
Director: Amatullah’Muhyi Ali

NEW JERSEY SHORTS 1: FICTION

AFTER HER
Director: Aly Migliori

FOR MURIEL
Director: Rebecca Shapiro

MOTHER OF THE YEAR
Director: Makena Costlow

PASSAIC
Director: Douglas Underdahl

SHERRY
Director: Mary Gulino

SWIPED RIGHT
Director: Dana Marisa Schoenfeld

NEW JERSEY SHORTS 2: DOCUMENTARY

BLACKED OUT
Directors: The Students of the Highland Park African-American History Project

GRIND
Director: Yuri Alves

HERE I’LL STAY
Directors: Marlene McCurtis, Lorena Manniquez
TOMNODDY
Director: Charles Poekel

WALK ON
Director: Megan Rossman

WHEN WE MEET AGAIN
Director: Julie Winokur

RETRO REPORT SHORTS
Some of the most complex issues we face today have in fact been hitting the headlines for decades, but what have we learned, if anything, and how can the media spark real, constructive conversation today?

THE BLACK ATHLETE IN AMERICA
Directors: Soo-Jeong Kang, Kyra Darnton, Karen M. Sughrue, Laurence B. Chollet, Chris Buck

THE DIGITAL BYSTANDER
Directors: Kyra Darnton, Laurence B. Chollet, Chris Buck

HAUNTED BY COLUMBINE
Directors: Kyra Darnton, Laurence B. Chollet, Chris Buck

LESSONS FROM THE SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
Directors: Kyra Darnton, Laurence B. Chollet, Chris Buck, Karen M. Sughrue

TRUMP’S IMMIGRATION RHETORIC ECHOES A BITTER FIGHT
Directors: Kyra Darnton, Karen M. Sughrue, Laurence B. Chollet, Chris Buck

“WHY HASN’T SEXUAL HARASSMENT DISAPPEARED?”
Directors: Kyra Darnton, Karen M. Sughrue, Laurence B. Chollet, Chris Buck

SHORTS FOR ALL AGES

CATASTROPHE
Director: Jamille van Wijngaarden

COIN OPERATED
Director: Nicholas Arioli

DAM! THE STORY OF KIT THE BEAVER
Director: Kjell Boersma

GAME
Director: Jeannie Donohoe

HEDGEHOG’S HOME
Director: Eva Cvijanović

HELLO
Director: Sydney Lloyd Smith

JESSZILLA
Director: Emily Sheskin
SPORTS SHORTS

ANYONE LIKE ME
Director: Mimi d'Autremont

LOCKED IN: THE VICTORIA ARLEN STORY
Director: Alison Ellwood

SONIC BREAK
Director: Stevan Riley

STUDENT SHORTS

DESDE EL PRINCIPIO (FROM THE TOP)
Director: Miguel J. Soliman

GLORIA TALKS FUNNY
Director: Kendall Goldberg

NEW BRONX
Director: Filip Ignatowicz

NIGHT CALL
Director: Amanda Renee Knox

SKULL FRACTURE or ‘AREN'T YOU RATHER YOUNG TO BE WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS?’
Director: Mads Hedegaard

SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES

BRAINWORM BILLY
Director: Emily Hubley

ROADSIDE ATTRACTION
Directors: Ivete Lucas, Patrick Bresnan