



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.

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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 ACCORING 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 ACCORING 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

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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 MADELINE, 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.

MONTCLAIR **FILM** April 26 – May 6, 2018 **FESTIVAL**

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.

For more information, please contact

FRANK PR:

Phone: 646-861-0843

Lina Plath
lina@frankpublicity.com

Clare Anne Darragh
clareanne@frankpublicity.com



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

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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

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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

CLOSENESS

Director: Kantemir Balagov

CROSSROADS

Director: Ron Yassen

CUSTODY

Director: Xavier Legrand

DAMSEL

Directors: David Zellner, Nathan Zellner

DISOBEDIENCE

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

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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)

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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 FIEL

Director: Irina Patkanian

MY DEAD DAD'S PORNO TAPES

Director: Charlie Tyrell

QUIET HOURS

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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: Katrell N. Kindred

FICTION SHORTS 2

BRAZUCA

Director: Faidon Gkretsikos

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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

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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

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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 Manriquez

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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

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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