



For Immediate Release

MEDIA ALERT

Montclair Film Festival Launches The Mark Urman Award For Fiction Filmmaking

*Juried Prize awarded to winning filmmaker in the Festival's
Future/Now Competition*

*Competition celebrates early career works by American independent
filmmakers*

April 30, 2019, MONTCLAIR, NJ - Montclair Film Festival today announced the launch of the Mark Urman Award For Fiction Filmmaking. The award, to be given by the festival each year in perpetuity, will be awarded to the winning filmmaker in the festival's Future/Now competition, a juried competition that celebrates the work of early career American independent filmmakers. Launched with the support of Urman's wife Deborah Davis, the award has been created to honor Mark's legacy as one of Montclair's greatest champions of independent filmmaking. The award will be given, alongside the festival's other juried awards, at the festival's annual award ceremony at 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 11th. The event is by invitation only.

This inaugural slate of films competing for the award are
JULES OF LIGHT AND DARK, directed by Daniel Laabs
LIGHT FROM LIGHT, directed by Paul Harrill
MICKEY AND THE BEAR, directed by Annabelle Attanasio
PREMATURE, directed by Rashaad Ernesto Green
THE WORLD IS FULL OF SECRETS, directed by Graham Swon

The 2019 Future Now Jury, who will be granting the award, are **Matt Cowal**, Netflix, **David Sims**, The Atlantic, **Lauren Sanchez**, Vogue.

"Throughout his career, Mark was a passionate supporter of emerging filmmakers," said Deborah Davis. "It is a great honor to have his name attached to a Montclair Film award that recognizes their promise and encourages them to grow."

“With the launch of this award, we are proud to celebrate Mark Urman’s legacy as a friend, supporter, and tireless champion of independent cinema.” said Montclair Film Executive Director Tom Hall. “Mark’s impact on Montclair film, his enthusiasm and support, remains profoundly important to us. We are incredibly grateful to Deborah and Mark’s family for giving us the opportunity to honor Mark and his friendship in a way that celebrates his life’s work, one which we hope offers much-needed encouragement to emerging artists.”

ABOUT MONTCLAIR FILM

Montclair Film is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that engages, entertains, and educates through the power of visual storytelling. The eighth annual Montclair Film Festival will take place from May 3-12, 2019. Montclair Film’s year-round and festival programming is made possible through generous support from Investors Bank; Audible; Hackensack Meridian Health, Mountainside Medical Center; the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey; The Bravitas Group; Ashenfelter, Slous, Trembulak, McDonough, Golia & Trevenen, LLP; Chubb; Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage; William H. Connolly & Co.; The Nature Conservancy, RBC Wealth Management, 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 more information about Montclair Film, visit www.montclairfilm.org

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