



**MYSTIC FILM FESTIVAL SELECTS 90 INDIE FILMS, and SCREENPLAYS
FINALISTS for OCT. 21-24 LIVE SHOWS**

STONINGTON, CT- September 14, 2021 – The fourth annual [Mystic Film Festival](#) returns to all-live programming at six local venues October 21-24 featuring 90 new short and feature-length documentary and narrative films from around the world, a screenwriting competition, filmmakers’ workshops, and a celebratory flashback to the 1980s with a screening and costume dance party to honor filmmaker Susan Seidelman.

Online [ticket sales](#) start Wednesday, September 22. The festival’s 2021 slate of films covers a wide range of topics including true crime; heroism; creating music, art, and dance; preserving farming and commercial fishing; jazz legends; relationship dynamics; life during a pandemic; the murder of George Floyd; immigration; humanity’s complex relationship with nature; and building cultural bridges between countries. Mystic Luxury Cinemas; The Velvet Mill; La Grua Center; United Theater of Westerly, R.I.; the Mystic Noank Library; and the The Mystic Seaport Museum’s Thompson Building will host film screenings.

“Our volunteers, filmmakers, and sponsors look forward to bringing the film-loving community together in person, following Covid19 protocols of course,” said Shareen Anderson, festival founder and executive director. “We’ve

increased the number of new films being screened and doubled the number of venues to appeal to more people and support quality filmmaking by professionals and students. We hope our oceanside communities come together for fun and inspiration.”

The festival opens Thursday, Oct. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mystic Luxury Cinema with a wine and beer party and screening of *The Day's* documentary [Those People](#), the story about a decade-long talent show healing racial rifts in New London when rocked by a brutal student murder. Curtis Goodwin and Peter Huoppi, who also directed the film, produced *Those People*. Goodwin and Huoppi will answer audience questions, and entertainers from past talent shows will perform.

HONOR AND CELEBRATE

To honor the lifetime, professional achievements of veteran filmmaker Susan Seidelman, on Saturday, October 23, the festival will screen her famous 1985 romantic comedy [Desperately Seeking Susan](#) at 4:30 p.m. at The Velvet Mill. It stars singer Madonna in her first acting role, Roseanna Arquette, Aiden Quinn, Laurie Metcalf, and John Turturro. As a director, producer, and writer, Seidelman's films focus on female protagonists, society's outsiders, and gender roles. Seidelman's most well known films include *She-Devil*, *Cookie*, *Boynton Beach Club*, *Musical Chairs*, and *The Hot Flashes*. Her television program credits include directing the *Sex and the City* television pilot and the Emmy-nominated *A Cooler Climate* for Showtime.

Seidelman will answer audience questions after the film screening, and kick-off '80s costume competition and a DJ-led dance party that follows the screening at 7 p.m. at The Velvet Mill. Beverages and food will be available from The Velvet Mill restaurants and bars.

The Mystic Film Festival's final day of screenings wrap up with an awards ceremony Sunday, October 24, at 7 p.m. at Mystic Luxury Cinemas. The festival awards include narrative feature, feature documentary, narrative short, documentary short, New England film, cinematography, directing, screenplay writing, student film, human rights, and conservation. Also at the ceremony, the top six screenplays will be announced. The grand-prize winner will win a table read in early 2022, a 12-month International Screenwriters' Association *Connect* membership, and a one-hour consultation with literary agent Charlie Northcote, owner of Core Literary Inc. The top five finalists will each receive a six-month ISA *Connect* membership and a 30-minute consultation with Northcote.

FILMMAKERS' RECEPTION and WORKSHOPS

The festival also will host a reception for this season's filmmakers and others in the movie industry Friday, October 22, at 6:30 p.m. at La Grua Center in Stonington. In addition, La Grua will screen students' films throughout the festival's four days.

Filmmakers' two-hour workshops will be conducted at the Mystic Noank Library:

- Friday, October 22, 1:30 p.m. [Emma Palzere-Rae](#) of Be Well Productions, an actor, playwright, director, and producer will moderate a panel discussion with Rhode Island and Connecticut casting directors about how to find quality local talent.
- Saturday, October 23 11:30 a.m. writer and filmmaker [Shira Levin](#), whose feature film *Starfish* won the Audience Choice Award at the 2018 Mystic Film Festival, will explain how to create narrative short films.
- Sunday, October 24, 11 a.m. [Gnarly Bay](#), a Westerly, R.I. producer of feature films and commercial videos, will guide filmmakers through the technical tools and steps for successful storytelling and film production.

SPONSORS and VOLUNTEERS

The festival's fiscal sponsor [Filmmakers Collaborative](#) of Melrose, Mass. allows the Mystic Film Festival to accept [tax-deductible donations from corporations and individuals](#). To donate please contact The festival's 2021 sponsors include the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce; Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce; Women in Film and Video – New England; Alliance of Women Directors; Nutmeg Institute; Mystic Luxury Cinemas; La Grua Center; Wilkidoos Productions; Garde Arts Center; Roadmap Writers; Connecticut Office of Film, Television, Digital Media; Jonathan Edwards Winery; International Screenwriters' Association (ISA); HomeLight; Market Realty; and Chelsea Groton Bank.

Community members who would like to volunteer at the festivals' parties, screenings, workshops, and with publicity please contact the festival's volunteer coordinator [Bess Gaby](#).

NARRATIVE FEATURES

- [A Beautiful Curse](#), directed by Martin Garde Abildgaard
- [Accidental Luxuriance of the Translucent Watery Rebus](#), directed by Dalibor Barić
- [Love](#), directed by Dionis Papadimitri
- [The Catch](#), directed by Matthew Ya-Hsiung Balzer
- [The Daphne Project](#), directed by Zora Iman Crews and Alec Tibaldi
- [The Man Behind The Camera](#), directed by Mike Perrone
- [Woman of the House](#), directed by Michelle Salcedo

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

- [Any Given Day](#), directed by Margaret Byrne
- [Dead In The Water](#), directed by David Wittkower
- [Foreign Puzzle](#), directed by Chithra Jeyaram

- [Live from the Space Stage: A Halyx Story](#), directed by Matthew Serrano
- [Missing In Brooks County](#), directed by Lisa Molomot and Jeff Bemiss
- [Ronnie's](#), directed by Oliver Murray
- [The Book Keepers](#), directed by Phil Wall
- [Those People](#), directed by Peter Huoppi
- [Vinyl Nation](#), directed by Kevin Smokler and Christopher Boone

NARRATIVE SHORTS

- [After The Egg](#), directed by Chelsea Slayter
- [Alexis](#), directed by Renata Mellão
- [Another Life](#), directed by Victor Warren
- [A Small Family Affair](#), directed by Barbara Stepansky
- [Awakening](#), directed by Julie Koehnen
- [Blu Cosette](#), directed by Andrew Le Pera and Ise White
- [Cupids](#), directed by Zoey Martinson
- [Cutbacks](#), directed by Julia Maggiola
- [Dr. Mania](#), directed by Joshua Crenshaw
- [Esperanza](#), directed by Tom Procida
- [Ethan Song](#), directed by Nick Rapuano
- [Fallen Angel](#), directed by Danielle Scott
- [Family History](#), directed by Mark J. Parker
- [Fort Trumbull](#), directed by Stephanie Jean Lane
- [Forty Years From Now](#), directed by John Manna
- [Gabby](#), directed by Adam Murray
- [Generation Gap](#), directed by Christopher S Lombardi
- [Hidden City](#), directed by Karen Elizabeth Price
- [Hopeful](#), directed by Alyssa Rallo Bennett
- [In the Company of Crows](#), directed by Rachel S. Thomas-Medwid
- [Just Us](#), directed by Alycia L. Cooper

- [Lake Forest Road](#), directed by Ashton Avila
- [Like Daughter. Like Mother](#), directed by Clyde Bald
- [LuvBugs](#), directed by J. Rivière
- [Noah's Flood](#), directed by Bryan Metzger
- [NoseDive](#), directed by Stephen Bisaccia and Caitlyn Meindl
- [Persistence](#), directed by Leo De Haan
- [Silent Notes](#), directed by Kiki Tsakalakis
- [Soyka](#), directed by Anastasiya Sergienya
- [Spoken Word Coffee Date](#), directed by Kara Addington
- [Sproutland](#), directed by Cynthia Wade
- [Such A Deal](#), directed by Dionna McMillian
- [Tenderly](#), directed by Emma Kanter
- [The Art of Longing and Belonging](#), directed by Stephen Emerick
- [The Della Morte Sisters](#), directed by Bill Sorvino
- [The News](#), directed by Lorin Terezi
- [The Plumber](#), directed by Cate Carson
- [The Right Call](#), directed by Brian James Kuenn
- [The Tide](#), directed by Dan Hartley
- [Wilt](#), directed by Wes Worthing
- [Witness Perfection](#), directed by Connor E. Rousseau
- [World Cup](#), directed by Maryam Khodabakhsh

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

- [Alice: At Home With Alice Parker](#), directed by Eduardo Montes-Bradley
- [A River Speaks](#), directed by Stephen Hamm
- [A Voice for Whales](#), directed by Selket Kaufman
- [Crosscourt Cultures: The Joseph Oyebog Story](#), directed by Emily Deluca
- [Fear and Desire: The Life and Death of Richard Hofmann](#), directed by David Ambrose

- [*Invading The Connecticut River: The Spread of Hydrilla*](#), directed by Emily Deluca
- [*Keepers Of The Land*](#), directed by Matthew Andrew
- [*Love, Lulu*](#), directed by Sebastian Podesta
- [*Say His Name: Five Days For George Floyd*](#), directed by Cy Dodson
- [*The Secret Gift*](#), directed by Sheila Conlin
- [*The Ship Builder*](#), directed by Juliette Sutherland

STUDENT FILMS

- [*A Documentary of My Family*](#), directed by Shayna Jenkins
- [*A Simpler Time*](#), directed by Abigail Amatucci
- [*A Special Dinner*](#), directed by Haley Pine and Brendan Egan
- [*Citizen*](#), directed by Marcus Parker-Wood
- [*Embers*](#), directed by Rodrigo Mariano
- [*Firebird*](#), directed by Carley Byers
- [*Gotcha Day*](#), directed by Keith Bress
- [*Hold Fast*](#), directed by Gabriele Esposito-Wilcock
- [*I Am Not Here*](#), directed by Kiera Cecchini
- [*IDK*](#), directed by Haley Augeri
- [*Key Change*](#), directed by Emai Lai
- [*Le Moustache*](#), directed by Sydney Treanor
- [*Love Without Loss*](#), directed by Christopher G Hetu
- [*Poker Night*](#), directed by Carly Zaleski
- [*Scouts*](#), directed by Oliver Schaffer
- [*75 Cents*](#), directed by Safi Jafri
- [*Stolen*](#), directed by Christina Giordano
- [*Studio 210*](#), directed by Lily Weisberg
- [*The Color of You*](#), directed by Jacob Rodier
- [*The Impact*](#), directed by Camille Dianand

- [Today's Paper, Yesterday's News](#), directed by Jenna Kramer

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION FINALISTS

- A Kinder Sea by Addie Johnson Talbott, Alessandra Mesa, and Daniel Talbott
- A Native Land by Caitlin McCarthy
- Excellent Fancy by Julie Sharbutt
- Flying Bird's Diary by Melissa Tantageidgeon
- Into the Mystic by Julie Fergus and Samara Kanegis
- She Don't Fade by Peter Easton Johns
- The Dark Days of Cassidy Krystian by Emily Troedson
- The Great Perhaps by Christine Vartoughian
- The Road to Ithika by Jeff Kimball
- Treasured by Bryce Breen

Participate in Mystic Film Festival's online communities via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mysticfilmfestival>, Twitter [@mysticfilmfest](#), and [Instagram](#).

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Captions:

1. Mystic Film Festival's 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Susan Seidelman in 1985 directing her romantic comedy *Desperately Seeking Susan*, which screens at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at The Velvet Mill followed by an '80s costume competition and dance party at 7 p.m. (black and white image)
2. Mystic Film Festival's 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Susan Seidelman. Her 1985 romantic comedy *Desperately Seeking Susan* screens at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at The Velvet Mill followed by an '80s costume competition and dance party at 7 p.m. (color image)

3. Shareen Anderson, founder and executive director of the Mystic Film Festival. (color image – headshot)

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