



**MYSTIC FILM FESTIVAL SELECTS 93 INDIE FILMS, and 16 SCREENPLAYS
FINALISTS for OCT 20 - 23, 2022 LIVE SCREENINGS and EVENTS and
ENCORE ONLINE FEST from OCT 24 - 30, 2022**

[TICKETS ON SALE NOW](#)

STONINGTON, CT- Oct. 4, 2022 – We are excited to announce the Fifth Annual **[Mystic Film Festival](#)**, returning to four local venues with new feature films, short films, events, and workshops from October 20th to the 23rd. This year's festival will bring 93 new short and feature-length documentary and narrative films from around the world. student films, a screenwriting competition, filmmakers' workshops, panel discussions, and a celebratory tribute to honor actress, comedian, and singer, Ruth Buzzi. This year's Mystic Film Festival is set to be an essential event for local patrons of the arts and for filmmakers from around the world.

[Tickets are available online.](#) The festival's 2022 slate of films covers a range of topics that the unique medium of motion pictures encompasses so well. From the existential to the personal, the international to the local, we are thrilled to present a diverse array of films and themes from around the globe. Hosting the screenings, panels, and workshops locally will be **[Mystic Luxury Cinemas](#)**, **[La Grua Center](#)**; **[United Theatre](#)** of Westerly, Rhode Island, and **[Mystic Seaport Museum's](#)** Thompson Building. The festival will also present a selection of this year's films for **[encore online screenings](#)** from Oct. 24-30.

FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT FILM

The festival opens Thursday, **Oct. 20, at 6:00 pm** at the Mystic Luxury Cinema with a screening of the feature [*Amerikatsi*](#), which recently won Best Narrative Feature at the Woodstock Film Festival in Woodstock, New York. [*Amerikatsi*](#) is a story of an Armenian-American who repatriates to Armenia, only to be sent to a Soviet prison. Hopeless and alone, he discovers he can see into a nearby apartment from his cell window, where a native Armenian man, unaware that he is being watched, slowly reveals the soul of Armenia hidden behind the iron curtain. Join us at 6:00 pm for a wine reception, and 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm for a screening and Q&A with writer, director, and lead actor Michael Goorjian.

HONOR and CELEBRATE

2022 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient - Ruth Buzzi

To honor the lifetime, professional achievements of an actress whose comedy career has spanned nearly 60 years of timeless film and television: Ruth Buzzi. The festival is honored to award her with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Born in Westerly, Rhode Island and raised in Stonington, Connecticut, Buzzi is known for her comedy show *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In*, which won her a Golden Globe award and numerous Emmy nominations. Buzzi also appeared on *Sesame Street*, *Saved By the Bell*, and *Freaky Friday*. In her honor, on Oct. 22 at 7:00 pm at La Grua Center in Stonington, the festival will celebrate women filmmakers and their short films [*Perfect Match*](#), [*Amber*](#), [*Scotch, Please*](#), and [*Shhh!*](#). Actor and comedian Emily Siero will open the event, and a wine and cheese social with the filmmakers will follow. The event is co-sponsored by Women In Film and Video of New England and will be hosted by its president, Sharon Contillo.

WORLD PREMIERE of RESTORED 1920's FILM

On Saturday, Oct. 22, at 5:30 p.m. La Grua Center hosts a world premiere of the 1920 restored film [*The Church with the Overshot Wheel*](#). The narrative short features a grain miller who lost his daughter and converted his mill -which is the Old Town Mill in New London - into a church. This film is one of the two surviving

'O Henry Features' of the 94 produced in the early 1900's by The Vitagraph Co of America and Doubleday. Following the film, there is a Q&A with Suzanne Harle who plans to discuss her finding of the film and the restoration process with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Prior to the screening of this film is a wonderful documentary about the importance of film restoration, called [Film, The Living Record Of Our Memory](#), at La Grua Center on October 22nd at 3 pm.

MYSTIC FILM FESTIVAL WELCOMES VETERAN ACTORS KAREN ALLEN and WILLIAM SADLER

On Sunday, Oct. 23, 3 pm, the festival will close with the narrative feature, [A Stage of Twilight](#) at Mystic Luxury Cinemas. The film follows a retired couple, Cora and Barry, who are enjoying life in their seventies. After Barry is rushed to the hospital due to having a severe coughing attack, he is later diagnosed with a fatal heart disease. Therefore, Barry rents a trailer home in the middle of the woods where he can die alone in peace. His hope for a dignified death proves to be a struggle for Cora, especially when Joey, a 17- year-old neighbor who acts as a surrogate son to the childless couple, enters the picture. As Barry's end approaches, Cora is driven to make a critical decision for them both.

Written & Directed by Sarah T. Schwab (*Life After You*), the film features Karen Allen (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Animal House*) and William Sadler (*The Shawshank Redemption*, *The Mist*), two industry veterans whose dozens of roles have landed them in some of Hollywood's most iconic films. A moderated conversation with Schwab, Allen, and Sadler will follow the screening.

FOR OYSTER LOVERS

On Friday, Oct. 21, at 3 pm the La Grua Center will host a special screening of the documentary film [The Oystering Life](#), directed and produced by Steve Hamm,

including a Q&A with the director. Join us and enjoy a glass of prosecco and taste some locally purveyed oysters.

3

On Saturday, Oct. 22, at 3 pm The United Theatre will be screening the documentary film [*Tide To Table: The Remarkable Journey of Oysters*](#), directed by Maria Luskay and Lou Guarneri, with a Q&A to follow. Enjoy a glass of wine and taste some locally purveyed oysters in the event space at the United Theatre. Hosted by The Cafe.

FILMMAKERS' RECEPTION and WORKSHOPS

The festival also will host a reception for this season's filmmakers and others in the movie industry on Friday, Oct. 21, at 6:30 pm at La Grua Center in Stonington. In addition, La Grua will screen students' films on Saturday and Sunday.

WORKSHOPS and PANEL DISCUSSIONS

All workshops and panel discussions will be conducted at the Mystic Seaport Museum:

- Friday, Oct. 21, 10:30 am agent [Charles Northcote](#), the owner of Core Literary, will discuss the necessary skills and materials for pitching a project in film and television markets.
- Friday, Oct. 21, 12:30 pm Women in Film and Video of New England board member and composer, [Grace-Mary Burega](#), will give a step-by step guide to working with a composer as a director, producer, writer, or filmmaker. Topics include why you would need a composer for your project, the advantages of custom music over library or royalty-free music, how to pick a composer, how to communicate your vision, temp scores, how to spot a film, and how to give revision notes.
- Saturday, Oct. 22, 10:30 am President of [Synthetic Cinema International](#) Andrew Gernhard, and Head of Production at [The Locations](#) Kate

Eisemann, discuss how to successfully find and negotiate the best possible locations for your production.

- Saturday, Oct. 22, 12:30 pm, join us for a discussion with Jason and Peter Filardi, brothers who grew up in Mystic, Connecticut, and went on to have

4

successful careers as screenwriters, showrunners and executive producers in Hollywood. Jason Filardi made his debut in Hollywood with the box office hit *Bringing Down The House*, which starred Steve Martin and Queen Latifah. That film went on to become one of the highest grossing comedies of 2003, grossing over 130 million in the United States alone. Peter Filardi is best known as the screenwriter behind *Flatliners*; *The Craft*; *Ricky 6*; TNT's *Salem's Lot*; an episode for *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*. Most recently, Filardi has worked as writer and showrunner of the Epix limited series *Chapelwaite* starring Adrien Brody and Emily Hampshire.

- Sunday, Oct. 23, 10:30 am, join us for a panel discussion with director and cinematographer Indy Saini, director Lynda Reiss, producer Steven Robert Kozlowski, director and writer Sashia Dumont, and director and cinematographer Paul Robinson, to discuss how directors and cinematographers work in unison to bring their vision to life on the screen. All of the above individuals also have films screening at this year's festival; [Women In The Front Seat](#), [Perfect Match](#), [Two Eyes](#), and [Amber](#).
- Sunday, Oct. 23, 12:30 pm Meet Jason Connell, an award-winning documentary producer and director, founder of The United Film Festival, and most recently a popular podcast producer and host, as he shares his amazing journey from award-winning documentarian to podcaster. In 2019, Connell chased another passion and launched [Just Curious Media](#), which creates highly entertaining and immersive podcasts including *Let's Talk – Cobra Kai*, a humorously nostalgic podcast covering all things in The Karate Kid and Cobra Kai universe. Due to good timing, and good luck, this show has become the #1 podcast covering Cobra Kai, the hit

series on Netflix.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The Mystic Film Festival's final day of screenings wraps up with an awards ceremony Sunday, Oct. 23, at 6:30 pm at La Grua Center. The

5

festival awards include best 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 five screenplay winners will be announced. The grand-prize winner will receive a ISA *Connect* membership and a consultation with a literary manager.

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](#). The festival's 2022 sponsors, partners, and grantors include the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce; Women in Film and Video New England; Mystic Luxury Cinemas; La Grua Center; The United Theatre; Mystic Seaport Museum; International Screenwriters' Association (ISA); Connecticut Humanities; Connecticut Office of Film, Television, and Digital Media; Chelsea Groton Bank; Saltwater Farm Vineyards; The Whaler's Inn; S&P Oyster, Cove Ledge Package Store, Alliance of Women Directors, and Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce.

Community members who would like to volunteer at the festival's parties, screenings, workshops, and with publicity, please contact us at info@mysticfilmfestival.com.

NARRATIVE FEATURES

- [A Stage of Twilight](#), directed by Sarah T. Schwab

- [Amerikatsi](#), directed by Michael Goorjian
- [Bootlegger](#), directed by Caroline Monnet
- [Concerned Citizen](#), directed by Idan Haguel
- [Marshmallow Mystery Tour](#), directed by Jeff Beals and Matthew Beals
- [Paris is in Harlem](#), directed by Christina Kallas
- [Portraits from a Fire](#), directed by Trevor Mack

6

- [Ragged Heart](#), directed by Evan McNary
- [The Dangerfields](#), directed by Reno Venturi
- [Two Eyes](#), directed by Travis Fine
- [UFO Club](#), directed by Steven Tsapelas

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

- [A Fire Inside](#), directed by Justin Krook and Luke Mazzaferro
- [Aquariums: The Dark Hobby](#), directed by Paula Fouce
- [Bound By Blue](#), directed by Katherine Reaves
- [Daniel Chester French](#), directed by Eduardo Montes-Bradley • [Film: The Living Record of our Memory](#), directed by Inés Toharia Terán • [Greyland](#), directed by Alexandra Sicotte-Lévesque
- [GSW Gun Shot Wound](#), directed by Jody Schiliro
- [Hidden Letters](#), directed by Violet Du Feng
- [Hoopties](#), directed by Jeremy Berger
- [Jack Has A Plan](#), directed by Bradley Berman
- [Mango House](#), directed by Ross Taylor
- [Objects](#), directed by Vincent Liota
- [Omar Sosa's 88 Well-Tuned Drums](#), directed by Soren Sorensen
- [Swimming Against the Current](#), directed by Aminah Salaam • [The Jewish Jail Lady and the Holy Thief](#), directed by Victor Velle • [The Other Madisons](#), directed by Eduardo Montes-Bradley • [The Oystering Life](#), directed by Stephen Andruss Hamm • [Truth Tellers](#),

directed by Richard Kane and Bob Elfstrom • [*Women in the Front Seat*](#), directed by Indy Saini

NARRATIVE SHORTS

- [*A Birthday Party*](#), directed by Victoria Thomas
- [*A Gift For All Ages*](#), directed by Russell Webb and Alicia Wszelaki
- [*A Pledge*](#), directed by Philippe Hamelle
- [*After Closing*](#), directed by Carley Byers

7

- [*Amber*](#), directed by Sashia Dumont
- [*Between Corners*](#), directed by Sami Ahmad
- [*Corpse Flower*](#), directed by Spencer Coriaty and Jose Rivera
- [*Corsets*](#), directed by Ruben de Eguia
- [*Dis/Connect*](#), directed by Jackie Massé
- [*Drive Thru N Chill*](#), directed by Sean M.F. Ahern
- [*Hanji Hope*](#), directed by Derron Wood and Victor Chiburis
- [*Hazardous*](#), directed by Peter Filardi
- [*Hollow*](#), directed by Derron Wood and Victor Chiburis
- [*I'm Phil*](#), directed by Bill Thibeault
- [*K2 TOG*](#), directed by Ari Veach
- [*Monster in a Box*](#), directed by Noah Weisel
- [*Moving On*](#), directed by Michelle Ann Carr
- [*No Peanuts For Brooks McGill*](#), directed by Gerard Zarra
- [*Off The Menu*](#), directed by Daniele Sestito
- [*Penny*](#), directed by Rachel S. Thomas-Medwid
- [*Perfect Match*](#), directed by Lynda Reiss
- [*Return*](#), directed by Rustam Khalikov
- [*Scotch, Please*](#), directed by Evan Schneider
- [*Shhh!*](#), directed by Penny G LeLeux
- [*Something Unseen*](#), directed by Sparkman Clark
- [*The Church With An Overshot Wheel*](#), directed by Joseph Byron Totten

- [The Locket](#), directed by Alec Asten
- [The Thought Doesn't Count](#), directed by Nikki Ann Silva
- [The Woodsman](#), directed by Kyle Kuchta
- [To Be Honest](#), directed by John Robert Hammerer
- [Tommy and the Guru](#), directed by Brian Russell
- [Tuesday](#), directed by Erik Champney
- [Yo Andrea](#), directed by Brian Russell

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

8

- [Alfredo's Island](#), directed by Curtis J Matzke
- [Bitter River](#), directed by Khushnuda Shukuri and Mark Albini
- [Death. by Koji](#), directed by Julian Liby
- [In Their Hands \(En Sus Manos\)](#), directed by Elle Rinaldi • [Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics](#), directed by Daniel Garee • [Ocean to Idaho](#), directed by Kris Millgate
- [Pony Boys](#), directed by Eric Stange
- [The Space Between Us](#), directed by Gabriel Diamond
- [Wednesday Nights on Stonington Harbor](#), directed by Sam Greenfield

STUDENT FILMS

- [Ardent One](#), directed by Emmanuel Day Beatty
- [As it Was](#), directed by Kayla Avitabile
- [Bird Lady](#), directed by Carter Rostron
- [Clown Town](#), directed by Sydney Treanor
- [Double Take](#), directed by Eli Canter
- [Greaseballs](#), directed by Jackson Mirmina
- [Hindrance](#), directed by Emil Sanchez
- [How to Tie a Tie](#), directed by Jimmy Cork
- [How We Remember](#), directed by Joshua Estrada and Cait McCarthy
- [Lost Souls](#), directed by Christina Giordano

- [*Piecing Together the Portraits of You*](#), directed by Dominique Holiday and Javier Castillo
- [*Sure, Tomorrow*](#), directed by Jordyn Sjante Harris
- [*The Show Must Go On*](#), directed by Brooks Petershack • [*The Silent Generation: A Robert Appelbaum Story*](#), directed by Sean Brownlie
- [*The Sky Above Us*](#), directed by Alexander Pretorius
- [*Tide to Table: The Remarkable Journey of Oysters*](#), directed by Maria Luskay and Lou Guarneri
- [*Toxic Faucets: Five Decades in Durham, CT*](#), directed by Hannah Gearan 9
- [*Turning Leaves*](#), directed by Bri Goolsby and James Nalle
- [*Virtually in Love*](#), directed by Erin E. Greene
- [*What's Left Unpacked*](#), directed by Desirée Tolchin

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION FINALISTS

- *Call Me Thor* by Jamie Campbell
- *Jane Doe & The Stag* by Bryce R Breen
- *Amy and Angel* by Julia Verdin and Deedee Benkovich
- *Bawl Park* by Marty Johnson
- *Crispy* by Dawson Roebig
- *Oil and Water* by Alfred Thomas Catalfo and Morgan Webster Dudley
- *Betrayed* by Alfred Thomas Catalfo
- *Ashes to Ashes* by Samantha Brennan
- *Journey Man* by Rhyess Nash
- *Foresight* by Jon Lance Bacon
- *The Tattooed Woman* by Jonathan Westbrook
- *The Gardner Heist* by Timothy Paul Driscoll
- *Leaf Blower Armageddon* by Hal LaCroix
- *Raining Rainbows* by Bonnie Culver
- *I Do* by Bonnie Culver
- *Season of Mists* by Kevin Brodie

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

News Media Contacts:

Shareen Anderson, Festival Founder, Executive Director
shareen@mysticfilmfestival.com, 347-731-4003

Wendy Wilkins, Co-Executive Director
wendy@mysticfilmfestival.com, 860-214-7924

For photos, please contact Shareen Anderson.

###