



## MYSTIC FILM FESTIVAL OPENS TICKET SALES FOR 74 LIVE AND ONLINE SCREENINGS

**Mystic, CT – October 2, 2020** – The third annual [Mystic Film Festival](https://mysticfilmfestival.com) will celebrate 74 narrative and documentary films from around the world before live audiences and through online streaming October 22 – 25. Tickets are now on sale for all live and online screenings at <https://mysticfilmfestival.com>.

Mystic Film Festival's 2020 program is a diverse slate of feature-length and short-form independent films, including some by Connecticut filmmakers; conversations with filmmakers; and the festival's first feature film screenplay competition. Following Covid19 safety distancing rules, live screenings will be hosted at Mystic Luxury Cinemas at 27 Coogan Blvd in Mystic, as well as the Velvet Mill and the La Grua Center in Stonington. Thirty-one of the festival's films are scheduled for online viewing only via the festival's easy-to-use cinema platform. Many of the [films' trailers](#) are posted on the festival's website. There will be Q&As with the filmmakers at the majority of live and online screenings.

The festival will honor American screenwriter, actor, comedian and executive Carl Gottlieb with a lifetime achievement award during an invitation-only gala 7 p.m. Oct 25 at the Mystic Luxury Theaters. Gottlieb, best known for co-writing the screenplay for Steven Spielberg's 1975 hit *Jaws* and two sequels, began his career in 1966 as a member of an improvisational, comedy theater group in San Francisco. Besides a lifetime of writing, acting, and directing for movies and television shows, he also co-wrote two autobiographies for musician David Crosby, and for many years served as an officer for the national Writers' Guild of America.

"The difficulties of Covid19 don't need to stop our communities from safely enjoying and supporting the arts," said festival founder Shareen Anderson, an award-winning producer and director. "We chose to offer a mix of online and in-person screenings of independently produced feature and documentary films to ensure everyone can participate, and to

encourage local and international filmmakers to continue creating movies that move us. Our online screenings open our local festival to the world of film lovers.”

Documentary films by two local filmmakers will open the live festival screenings Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Mystic Luxury Cinemas. Stonington filmmaker Christopher Kepple’s documentary [A Call to Arts](#) chronicles the story of Irish Republican soldier, writer, and artist Ernie O’Malley and his Connecticut-born wife, sculptress Helen Hooker, their marriage, artistic partnership in photography, and the lifelong mission of their son, Cormac O’Malley, a Stonington resident and Irish historian, to discover and celebrate their legacy. Hooker and O’Malley created images to depict Ireland not for how it was, but for what it could become.

Opening night also will feature the short documentary [Tall Tales: The Ireland of Orson Welles](#) directed by Dillon Toole of Mystic about reknowned 20<sup>th</sup> century filmmaker Orson Welles’ two visits to the Emerald Isle - first as a young actor and later in life when his brilliant career was fading. Filmmakers Kepple and Toole will answer audience questions after the screenings.

The fesitval closes Oct. 25 with the 4 p.m. at Mystic Luxery Cinemas with the new documentary [Entangled](#) about the race to save North Atlantic Right Whales from extinction. Directed by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Abel, the film chronicles how today’s climate crisis has accelerated a collision between one of the world’s most endangered species, North America’s most valuable fishery, and a federal agency mandated to protect both. Following will be a screening of [Celestial](#), a short documentary by Jack Gordon about students who use the forgotten art of celestial navigation during a prestigious sailing race.

Mystic Film Festival is supported by sponsors and partners including Baobab Studios, Chelsea Groton Bank, the Connecticut Office of Film, Television, and Digital Media, the Connecticut Office Of The Arts, Digital CONNtent Creators, Garde Arts Center, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce, Green Planet Films, Innovast Digital Marketing, International Screenwriters’ Association (ISA), Jonathan Edwards Winery, La Grua Center, Mason’s Island Marina, Meditative Writing, Mystic Luxury Cinemas, Nutmeg Institute, Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce, Power Posse Productions, Roadmap Writers, Saltwater Farm Vineyards, Wilkidoos Productions, Women in Film & Video New England, and *Yankee Magazine*. To become a sponsor or partner, please visit <https://mysticfilmfestival.com/sponsorships/>.

## FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES

**A Call to Arts**, directed by Christopher Kepple

**Assassins**, directed by Ryan White

**Fentanyl Madness**, directed by Steve Hamm (online only)  
**Gatsby in Connecticut: The Untold Story**, directed by Robert Steven Williams  
**Entangled**, directed by David Abel  
**Father Unknown**, directed by David Quint  
**Life in Syncro**, directed by Angela Pinaglia (online only)  
**My Boys of Summer**, directed by Mark Pernerewski (online only)  
**The Donut King**, directed by Alice Gu  
**The Hardest Day**, directed by Ross Taylor (online only)  
**The Land of Azaba**, directed by Greta Schiller  
**Uprooting Addiction: Healing from the Ground Up**, directed by Tory Estern Jadow (online only)

#### **NARRATIVE FEATURE FILMS**

**Five Weeks in Westport**, directed by Howard Friedman and Shirlee Hauser  
**#Like**, directed by Sarah Pirozek  
**Ten Minutes to Midnight**, directed by Erik Bloomquist  
**The Miseducation of Bindu**, directed by Prarthana Mohan (online only)

#### **NARRATIVE SHORTS**

**2 Dollars**, directed by Robin Cloud (online only)  
**Anna**, directed by Dekel Berenson (online only)  
**A Vital Sign**, directed by Paul Robinson  
**Chicken Man**, directed by Chris Romagosa (online only)  
**Christmas Roast**, directed by Alexander Baghdasaryan (online only)  
**Everything's Fine**, directed by Danny Rhodes (online only)  
**Fruitless**, directed by Robyn Paris (online only)  
**Hail Mary**, directed by Joe LaRocca  
**Home Wreckers**, directed by Joe Ferrera (online only)  
**House of La Reine**, directed by Lisa Marie Tedesco  
**It's Look Sunshine**, directed by Kim Seung Hwan (online only)  
**Lancaster Park**, directed by Lynda Reiss (online only)  
**Like Nothing Happened**, directed by Catherine Black (online only)  
**Lost Treasure of the Valley**, directed by Robert Husted  
**Out of Stock**, directed by (online only)  
**Patrick**, directed by Adam Swain Ferguson (online only)  
**Peppermint**, directed by Jesse Cook III  
**#Princess Problems**, directed by Maritza Gomez

**Red**, directed by Kewan J. Harrison  
**Reflections**, directed by Vickie Rose Sampson (online only)  
**Rruga/The Path**, directed by Besim Ugzmajli  
**Second Chance Cafe**, directed by Donna Gustafson  
**Sticky**, directed by Cameron Johanning  
**Supplements**, directed by Sarah Phillips (online only)  
**The Christmas Gift**, directed by Bogdan Muresanu  
**The Honey Makers**, directed by Jeneffa Soldatic  
**The Light Thief**, directed by Eva Daoud (online only)  
**The Pod Caster**, directed by Ian D'Amelia (online only)  
**The Quiet Shore**, directed by Alex Ramirez (online only)  
**The Squirrels in The Attic**, directed by Rachel S. Thomas-Medwid  
**Unit 23**, directed by Arianna Thibodeau (online only)  
**When a Black Man Walks Home**, directed by Nick Oski

#### DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

**Activized**, directed by Eric Stange (online only)  
**Burnt Feathers, Broken Wings**, directed by Cady McClain (online only)  
**Celestial**, directed by Jack Gordon  
**Juvenile Life in Prison Without Parole**, directed by John Spinnato  
**May Day on the Green**, directed by Reginald Christophe (online only)  
**Sand in The Sky**, directed by Sana Saint  
**Saudade**, directed by Yanis Carreto  
**Tall Tales: The Ireland of Orson Welles**, directed by Dillon Toole  
**To the Surface**, directed by Gnarly Bay  
**With Dad**, directed by Soren Sorensen (online only)

#### STUDENT FILMS

**Bullshido**, directed by J. Rivière  
**Cadence of the Valley**, directed by Rama Ayasra  
**Denver to Boston**, directed by Joseph Anthony Marcello  
**Dog**, directed by Anat Eisenberg (online only)  
**Heat Wave**, directed by Melanie Coffey and Ryan DiBiase  
**Late Shift**, directed by Laurel Pehmoeller  
**Junkie**, directed by Alyssa Botelho  
**Living Swamp**, directed by Lionel R. Jeffries  
**Modern Prometheus**, directed by Nicholas David

**Natálie**, directed by Yinghui Fu (online only)  
**On The Whistle**, directed by T. J. Noel-Sullivan  
**Out of Stock**, directed by Bryan Taira (online only)  
**Rinse & Repeat**, directed by Jacob Ehrlich  
**The Fall Line**, directed by Maryann Lonergan  
**The Quiet Plan**, directed by Timothy Amatulli (online only)  
**Why We Fly**, directed by Allie March

#### TOP 20 SCREENPLAY COMPETITION FINALISTS

**An Angel Whispers** by Jeremy Storey  
**Brook Farm** by Alexander Wake  
**Dirty Water Dogs** by Terri Viani  
**Float Me Up** by Daniel Talbott  
**Grynszpan/Thompson** by Hal LaCroix  
**HashBrown** by Erica Bock  
**Landlocked** by Steve Becker  
**Land of Light** by Nicholas Batchelder  
**Lord of the Silver Hand** by Gerald Killingworth  
**Never Say Goodbye** by Denise Widman  
**Nikki Lix** by Rose Schimm  
**Pass Over** by Alexander Kaminer  
**Perigee Heart** by Robert Languedoc  
**Riding on Duke's Train** by Ken Kimmelman and Mick Carlon  
**Runaway Ship** by Theodore Carl Soderberg  
**Saving Mark Twain** by Staton Rabin  
**Simmer** by Derrick Haggerty and Owen Schwartzbard  
**Snowfall** by Robert Languedoc  
**Steam** by Robert Languedoc  
**Where The Men Are** by Wendy Jean Wilkins

The top five winners of the festival's first feature-film screenplay competition will be announced at our the festival's award ceremony on Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. at Mystic Luxury Theaters for filmmakers with films in the festival and invited guests. The top prize is a "table read" of the winner's script, which will be scheduled after the festival.

#### ONLINE FILMMAKERS' WORKSHOPS AND PANELS

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Six filmmakers' workshops and panels will be offered online, *Movement of the Camera* will be presented by a director of photography on Oct. 22 at noon. *Made In Connecticut*, a panel discussion about film production in Connecticut on Oct. 23 at noon will feature local filmmakers and production companies, as well as representatives of the state's Office of Film, Television, and Digital Media. Those wanting to improve their production assistant skills may join Alecia Orsini Lebeda, president of Women in Film & Video New England, Oct. 24 9:30 a.m. for a Production to make yourself invaluable to directors and film crews. A *Screenwriters Panel* featuring Felicity Wren from the International Screenwriters' Association, Joey Tuccio, CEO of Roadmap Writers, and Jessica Hinds, Founder of Meditative Writing, Oct. 25 at noon. A panel discussing Women In Film & Television will take place Oct 25 at 4:00 p.m, and *Distribution Down Low*, a free workshop presented by Christina Raia of Seed&Spark on Oct 24 at 2:00 p.m. All of the panels are also free.

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

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