



MYSTIC FILM FESTIVAL OPENS OCT. 21
TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR 91 NEW FILMS, WORKSHOPS, and '80s
FAMOUS FILM AND COSTUME COMPETITION

STONINGTON, CT- October 20, 2021 – [Mystic Film Festival](#) opens Thursday, October 21, at the Mystic Luxury Cinema with a 6:30 p.m. wine and beer reception and screening of *The Day's [Those People](#)*, a documentary about creating a talent show to help New London heal racial hatred after the community was shocked by a brutal student murder. Talent show co-founder and New London City Counselor Curtis Goodwin and journalist Peter Huoppi, who also directed the film, co-produced *Those People*. Goodwin and Huoppi will answer audience questions. Entertainers from past New London talent shows will perform.

The four-day festival at six local venues features 91 new short and feature-length films, a screenwriting competition, filmmakers' workshops, and a lifetime achievement award saluting filmmaker Susan Seidelman. Masks to protect against Covid19 are required at all festival events. Audience members will be asked to vote for their favorite films.

[Tickets are still available online](#) for the festival's 2021 films, many of which were produced locally and offer a wide range of topics, including [the daring rescue of](#)

[12 boys and their coach from deep inside a flooded cave in Thailand](#); [finding strength in dance to cope with breast cancer](#); [Westerly Land Trust's farm dinner](#); true crime; heroism; preserving commercial fishing; jazz legends; relationship dynamics; life during today's global pandemic; George Floyd's murder; immigration; humanity's complex relationships with nature; and building cultural bridges. Mystic Luxury Cinemas; The Velvet Mill; La Grua Center; United Theater of Westerly, R.I.; the Mystic & Noank Library; and the Mystic Seaport Museum's Thompson Building will host film screenings.

STUDENT FILMS AND HONORING LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Twenty-one student films will be shown throughout the four days at the La Grua Center in Stonington Borough starting at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21.

To honor Seidelman's lifetime as director, producer, and writer, her famous 1985 romantic comedy [Desperately Seeking Susan](#) will be shown at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at The Velvet Mill. It stars singer Madonna in her first acting role, Roseanna Arquette, Aiden Quinn, Laurie Metcalf, and John Turturro. Seidelman's films focus on female protagonists, society's outsiders, and gender roles. Seidelman's best 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, and kick-off an '80s costume competition and DJ-led dance party at 7 p.m. following the screening.

AWARDS and FILMMAKERS' EVENTS

For filmmakers and those who want to make movies, the festival offers three, two-hour workshops at the Mystic & Noank Library:

- Friday, October 22, 2 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.

The festival also will host an invitation-only reception for this season's filmmakers and others in the movie industry Friday, October 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the La Grua Center.

The Mystic Film Festival's final day of screenings wraps up with an awards ceremony Sunday, October 24, at 7 p.m. at Mystic Luxury Cinemas. The festival awards include directing, editing, cinematography, narrative feature, feature documentary, narrative short, documentary short, New England film, screenplay writing, student film, human rights, and conservation. Also at the ceremony, the top five 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 four finalists will each receive a six-month ISA *Connect* membership and a 30-minute consultation with Northcote.

SPONSORS

"We are so appreciative of the strong support from our ocean communities' sponsors, volunteers, and film lovers," said Shareen Anderson, festival founder and executive director. "We are inspired by this festival's offerings, and ask

audience members to vote for their favorites and bring a friend along to the screenings.”

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 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.

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
- [The Rescue](#), by Academy Award®-winning directors and producers E. Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin
- [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 Tantagegidgeon
- 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. Screens from the opening night documentary film *Those People*, screened 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21.
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)

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