

For Immediate Release
September 5, 2018

STARFISH TO OPEN MYSTIC FILM FESTIVAL

Mystic Film Festival is thrilled to announce that STARFISH, written and directed by Shira Levin, will be the festival's opening night film. STARFISH is a universal, heartwarming story about friendship, family, grief, and healing, and the strong bond between dogs and humans. It stars Margaret Curry and Sophia Colon Roosevelt, and co-stars Christopher L. McAllister, Pascal Yen-Pfister, and Linette Roe. Curry also associate produced the film with Levin, and Caroline Stucky is the director of photography. STARFISH is Levin's feature film directorial debut.

STARFISH grew out of Levin's grief after her father died, as well as the death of her rescue dog, Tyler. "I wanted to tell a story that explored grief, which is not something often discussed in life or shown in movies. However, I also wanted to show aspects of the healing process that take place in order to get to the other side of grief. I wanted the story to contain both the sadness and joys of life and reflect how it often can change emotionally in an instant, and create characters that audiences could relate to and who felt like real people."

STARFISH was filmed primarily in Westbrook, Connecticut, where Levin and her husband live part time, as well as in Clinton, Old Saybrook, and Madison. "As I wrote the script I pictured all the locations in the area that I knew personally, especially the beach, which is almost a character in the movie," explains Levin. "One of the highlights of making this film was the amazing support I received from neighbors and the town – even two of my neighbors were in the movie. People I did not know before making this film have become friends and I am incredibly grateful to everyone who helped us in numerous ways. Their generosity, encouragement and interest in the project was a tremendous boost for me as a filmmaker. I had very little money to make it. I can honestly say that without the help I got in Westbrook and the other shoreline towns, I could not have pulled it off."

View the STARFISH trailer here: <https://vimeo.com/281091915>

The Connecticut premiere screening of STARFISH will take place on October 18, 2018 at Mystic Luxury Cinemas, following an exciting red carpet cocktail event. Levin and some cast and crew will be in attendance and available for a Q&A after the screening. Tickets will go on sale for the opening night event on Friday, September 7, 2018. Visit Mystic Luxury Cinemas website for tickets and more info: <https://www.mysticluxurycinemas.com>

ABOUT MYSTIC FILM FESTIVAL

Mystic Film Festival is a new annual event that will showcase independent feature length and short form narrative films and documentaries from all over the world. The 1st Annual Mystic Film Festival will take place from October 18 to October 21, 2018 in the beautiful New England coastal town of Mystic, Connecticut, located midway between New York and Boston. Mystic Film Festival will screen a variety of films over the course of 3 days and 4 nights, including Q&A's with filmmakers in attendance, industry panels, networking events, and workshops.

The full festival schedule will be announced on September 11, 2018. Tickets will go on sale soon after.

Mystic Film Festival would like to extend a huge thank you to our sponsors and partners that have come on board to support this event: Mystic Luxury Cinemas, Owl Media, Nutmeg Institute, Connecticut Office of Film, Television, & Digital Media, Jonathan Edwards Winery, O'Brien Retirement Investment Group, Garde Arts Center, WMNR Fine Arts Radio, and the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce.

Visit the festival's website for more information: www.mysticfilmfestival.com, or contact Shareen Anderson at shareen@mysticfilmfestival.com for more info.

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