

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17, 2023

The Mystic Film Festival and the Mystic Film Institute Present a Screening of *Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power* and Q&A with Co-Producer Maria Giese at Mystic Luxury Cinemas on January 22, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

"If the camera is predatory, then the culture is predatory."

In this eye-opening documentary, celebrated independent filmmaker Nina Menkes explores the sexual politics of cinematic shot design. Using clips from hundreds of movies we all know and love – from *Metropolis* to *Vertigo* to *Phantom Thread* – Menkes convincingly makes the argument that shot design is gendered. *Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power* illuminates the patriarchal narrative codes that hide within supposedly "classic" set-ups and camera angles, and demonstrates how women are frequently displayed as objects for the use, support, and pleasure of male subjects. Building on the essential work of Laura Mulvey and other feminist writers, Menkes shows how these not-so-subtle embedded messages affect and intersect with the twin epidemics of sexual abuse and assault, as well as employment discrimination against women, especially in the film industry. The film features interviews with an all-star cast of women and non-binary industry professionals including Julie Dash, Penelope Spheeris, Charlyne Yi, Joey Soloway, Catherine Hardwicke, Eliza Hittman, Maria Giese, and Rosanna Arquette. The result is an electrifying call-to-action that will fundamentally change the way you see, and watch, movies.

Official Selection: Sundance Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival, CPH:DOX, IDFA

"Nina Menkes' eye-opening documentary will forever change how you look at films." – [Indiewire](#)

"An expansive documentary on the gendered nature of film language." – Leslie Felperin, [The Hollywood Reporter](#)

"*Brainwashed* is a bracing blast of critical rigor, taking a clear, cool look at the unexamined assumptions behind what we see on the screen." – Peter Bradshaw, [The Guardian](#)

"A real no-bullshit breath of fresh air." – Fionnuala Halligan, [Screen Daily](#)

There will be a post-screening Q&A with Maria Giese, the film's co-producer. Giese is a film director, producer, and screenwriter, a member of the Directors Guild of America, and an activist for parity for women directors in Hollywood. Giese instigated the historic industry-wide federal investigation for women directors in Hollywood, and she writes and lectures about the under-representation of women filmmakers in the United States.

The screening and Q&A will take place on January 22, 2023 at 2:00 pm at Mystic Luxury Cinemas, located in Olde Mistick Village, 27 Coogan Blvd, Mystic, Connecticut, 06355.

Tickets can be purchased here:

<https://mysticfilmfestival2022.eventive.org/schedule/63a0bd33c01a7b0062a5eba6>

Official Film Trailer: <https://youtu.be/8iuxFubOWBs>

About The Mystic Film Festival and The Mystic Film Institute

The Mystic Film Festival, founded in 2018, brings artists and audiences together for the premieres of groundbreaking work at its annual festival in October. The non-profit Mystic Film Institute, founded in 2022 with the mission of fostering new voices in storytelling in Connecticut and other New England states, is a champion and curator of stories for the screen. Year round, the Mystic Film Institute hosts a variety of public screenings, workshops, panels, and special events to amplify original voices, inspire new ideas, and rally our community in support of independent storytelling.

www.mysticfilmfestival.com

For more information or photos, please contact Shareen Anderson or Wendy S. Wilkins at info@mysticfilmfestival.com.