

Stony Brook Film Festival
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- Announcing the 17th Annual Stony Brook Film Festival Program -

June 1, 2012, Stony Brook, NY— Ten days of new independent films from the U.S. and around the world will screen at the highly regarded, highly competitive 17th Annual Stony Brook Film Festival from Thursday, July 19 to Saturday, July 28 at Staller Center for the Arts at Stony Brook University. The festival's complete program schedule is available at stonybrookfilmfestival.com. The 2012 Festival, produced by Staller Center for the Arts, brings an outstanding mix of American independent features and shorts, documentaries, and foreign films chosen from over 800 entries to over 15,000 patrons this summer. The Stony Brook Film Festival includes film from the U.S., Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, Palestine, Spain and the United Kingdom. Films are screened one at a time in the 1,000 seat Staller Center Main Stage Theatre each evening and through the weekends.

Returning filmmakers

Outstanding premieres this year are from returning filmmakers who have participated in past Stony Brook Film Festivals, introducing their films before screenings, participating in Q&As after screenings, and informally greeting and meeting filmgoers. Terry Green returns to Stony Brook for a third time, bringing the World Premiere of his film *No God No Master* for Opening Night. *No God No Master* stars David Strathairn (*Good Night and Good Luck*). Green's feature *Almost Salinas* won the Grand Prize at Stony Brook in 2002, and *Heavens Fall* was the Opening Night pick in 2006. *No God No Master* brings Post-World War I America to life with the dramatic story of the Anarchist Movement, the Palmer Raids and the Sacco and Vanzetti trial.

Brent Huff, director of *Behind the Orange Curtain*, will represent his hard-hitting documentary about the prescription drug addiction epidemic among young people in Orange County, California. Huff is returning to Stony Brook for a third time after his films *100 Mile Rule* in 2003 and *Cat City* in 2008 screened at the Festival. Dutch producer Alain De Lavita returns to Stony Brook for the third time as well, bringing two films from the Netherlands, *Taped*, a tense thriller, and *Time to Spare*, an entertaining drama featuring Karina Smulders (*Bride Flight*), honored at the 2011 Stony Brook Film Festival for her acting role in *Don't Touch My Children*.

Alan Inkles, director of the Stony Brook Film Festival notes, "We are gratified to find that filmmakers want to return to Stony Brook with their new work. Filmmakers tell us consistently that there are few festivals like Stony Brook. The large audiences, intelligent feedback, and enthusiasm for their films are unparalleled. Word has spread, and entries from hundreds of filmmakers this year gave us a great opportunity to find incredible excellence and variety."

Opening Night, July 19

Terry Green, the director of the World Premiere of *No God No Master* will have many of the cast and crew with him to see the film's first public screening. *No God No Master* features David Strathairn as an "Anarchist expert" and agent in the United States Secret Service and Ray Wise as Alexander Palmer, the Attorney General who staged the infamous Palmer Raids, arresting thousands of suspects. Sam Witwer plays Eugenio Ravarini, James Madio is Nicola Sacco, Alessandro Mario is Bartolomeo Vanzetti, and Sean McNall is J. Edgar Hoover. Carlo Tresca is played by Edoardo Ballerini, Mariana Klaveno plays Louise Berger, Mariann Mayberry is Emma Goldman, and David Darlow plays John D. Rockefeller, Sr. in this Post-World War 1 drama.

Closing Night, July 28

The French film, *The Day I Saw Your Heart*, directed by Jennifer Devoldere and starring Melanie Laurent (*The Concert, Inglorious Basterds*) in its New York premiere, will end the festival with charm and humor. A tactless, 60-something father tells his adult daughters that he and his second wife are expecting a child. The dramatic comedy unfolds, introducing quirky characters and poignant moments.

Spotlight Showcase

On Saturday, July 21 the East Coast premiere of *Shanghai Calling* takes a prime spot at the Festival. The film stars Daniel Henney (*X-Men Origins-Wolverine*), is written and directed by Daniel Hsia, and is produced by Janet Yang (*The Joy Luck Club*, *The People vs. Larry Flynt*). *Shanghai Calling* is a cross-cultural romantic comedy about a Manhattan attorney angling for partnership, willfully ignorant of his Chinese heritage, who is sent to Shanghai to open his firm's new satellite office.

Documentaries

Behind the Orange Curtain makes an East Coast premiere on Friday, July 20 at 7:00 pm at Stony Brook following its West Coast premiere screening at Newport Beach Film Festival. The riveting documentary reports on young, privileged teenagers who have died of drug overdoses in record numbers in Orange County, California. Many of these tragic deaths are from pain medications including Opana, OxyContin and Hydrocodone. This timely film's relevance to Long Islanders with its drug-related tragedies will undoubtedly hit home.

Eight years after the death of her husband in a suicide bombing in Haifa, Israel, Yael Armanet-Chernobroda, the wife of Dov Chernobroda, an Israeli architect and peace activist who was killed in the blast, travels to Jenin to visit the family of the suicide bomber. *After the Silence* screens on Sunday, July 22 at 4:00 pm. Two young German filmmakers, Jule Ott and Stephanie Bürger, together with Manal Abdallah from Jenin, made *After the Silence*.

The U.S. premiere of a documentary about songwriter and blues singer Jerome Felder, who renamed himself Doc Pomus, comes to Stony Brook on Monday, July 23 at 7:00 pm. The film, *a.k.a Doc Pomus*, tells the story of the author of "Save the Last Dance for Me," "This Magic Moment," "A Teenager in Love," "Viva Las Vegas," and dozens of other hits. Doc Pomus was confined to crutches and a wheelchair, but lived his life to the fullest, as shown in this documentary.

Side by Side, a documentary about the science, art, and impact of digital cinema is narrated by Keanu Reeves, who interviews directors and film experts to explore how the digital revolution in film making has challenged photochemical filmmaking. James Cameron, George Lucas, Martin Scorsese, David Lynch and Christopher Nolan are among the filmmakers featured. The film screens on Friday, July 27 at 7:00 pm.

American Premieres

In addition to *No God No Master* and *Shanghai Calling*, American highlights include Kurt Kueene's *Shuffle*, a Twilight-Zone style mystery with TJ Thyne (*Bones*) on Saturday, July 21 at 9:30 pm, Ishai Setton's *3 Days of Normal* on Sunday, July 22 at 9:30 pm about a starlet who escapes to rural New Hampshire for some rest and meets a small-town cop who takes no interest in anything outside his jurisdiction. Megan Peterson and John Douglas Sinclair's *Heathens & Thieves*, a Western crime drama associated with the 1849 Gold Rush, the fallout of the Civil War and the impact of Chinese immigration screens on Tuesday, July 24 at 9:30 pm.

Foreign Highlights

On Friday, July 20 at 9:30 pm, an entertaining feature from Argentina, *My First Wedding*, comes to Staller Center for a New York premiere directed by Patricio Vega. A Jewish-born bride and a Catholic-born groom have reached their wedding day and a catastrophe may be in store. The French film, *Guilty*, screen on Saturday, July 21 at 4:00 pm. It is based on the true story of Alain Marécaux, unjustly accused of pedophilia. On Sunday, July 22 at 7:00 pm, a riveting film from Germany, *Wunderkinder*, directed by Marcus O. Rosenmüller, tells the story of friendship among children who share a love of music. When German troops invade the Ukraine their lives will never be the same. Tuesday, July 24 at 7:00 pm features the Dutch film *Time to Spare*, an unconventional and delightful film directed by Job Gosschalk. *Taped*, a tense Dutch thriller screens on Wednesday, July 25 at 7:00 pm, with the producer Alain De Levita, producer of both films attending to represent the two screenings. *Le Skylab* brings European sensibility to the Stony Brook Film Festival. Julie Delpy (*Before Sunset*) directs, writes and stars in the New York premiere in this French film, a charming and unusual comedy being shown on Friday, July 27 at 9:30 pm.

Film Passholder Benefits

As a Passholder Bonus, the short film, *When You Find Me*, directed by Bryce Dallas Howard, has been included to screen on Saturday, July 28 at 7:15 pm. The unusual film resulted when Canon teamed up with filmmaker Ron Howard to launch Project Imagin8tion, a public photo competition. Film passes for entry to all films are \$80, with benefits that include the Passholder Bonus film, discounts for party tickets, and specials from Festival Hospitality Sponsors, including Pentimento restaurant and Kitchen A Bistro, among others. Single tickets are \$9 and \$7 and go on sale subject to availability Monday, July 9 at stonybrookfilmfestival.com or by calling (631) 632-ARTS [2787]. Tickets to a festive Opening Night Party and the Closing Night Awards Reception sponsored by HBO may also be purchased online or by phone.

Closing Night Awards Reception sponsored by HBO

Filmmakers attend screenings to represent their films and winning filmmakers are brought back for the Closing Night Awards Reception sponsored by HBO. Film critic John Anderson will host the awards ceremony as he has in past years. For more information about tickets to the Opening Night Party and Closing Night Awards Reception, Gold Passes for reserved seating and past festivals, go to www.stonybrookfilmfestival.com.

Presenting sponsors of the Stony Brook Film Festival are Danfords Hotel and Marina, HBO, Suffolk County, Teachers Federal Credit Union, The Village Voice and WALK 97.5 Radio.

About Staller Center for the Arts

Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook University's cultural showplace, is located in the center of campus and has been the home of the Stony Brook Film Festival every summer since its beginnings. Staller Center offers over 200 performances annually in dance, music, art, theatre, and film from around the world each season.

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