

16th ANNUAL TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL[®] ANNOUNCES SHORT FILM LINEUP WITH NARRATIVE, DOCUMENTARY AND ANIMATED SELECTIONS

From Powerful to Poignant, 10 Thematic Shorts Competition Programs Celebrate Storytelling and Contemplate Life, Dreams, Kindness and Compassion

New York, NY [March 7, 2017] – The 16th annual Tribeca Film Festival, presented by AT&T, today announced its lineup of 57 thought-provoking and diverse short films in competition, including 36 world premieres. The selected shorts, 40% of which were directed by women, and include filmmakers from every corner of the globe, were curated from a record 4,385 submissions. They will be presented in 10 distinct competition programs, consisting of five narrative, four documentary, and, for the second year, one animated program. In addition, there is the Sports Shorts program as part of the 11th annual Tribeca/ESPN Sports Film Festival, sponsored by Mohegan Sun. The Shorts program, sponsored by Nutella Originals, is a part of the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival, which runs April 19-30.

Tribeca Film Festival has several first-time documentary shorts programs this year including *S.O.S.*, which focuses on kindness to each other and planet Earth, and *Surf's Up!*, which will have an extended Q&A following the premiere with the filmmakers and their subjects. The always popular New York program this year is aptly called *Group Therapy* and includes performances by Bobby Cannavale, Kieran Culkin, Salma Hayek, John Turturro, and real New York firefighters.

This year's short slate boasts a vast geographical reach – 40% are international films. Eighteen countries are represented, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Venezuela, and the United States.

"It's wonderful to have shorts from such diverse countries like Iran, Venezuela, and South Korea to complement the American short films," said Sharon Badal, Vice President of Filmmaker Relations and Shorts Programming. "This year's shorts programs are evidence that storytelling has no boundaries, and creativity is global."

The program features some of the industry's finest creative talent, in front and behind the camera, including Jim Sheridan (*The Boxer, Get Rich or Die Tryin'*), marine life artist Wyland, visual artist Chris Burkard, two-time Academy Award Winner for Visual Effects Paul Franklin (*Interstellar* and *Inception*), Elisabeth Moss, and Mae Whitman.

Special Screenings include the premiere of *Dear Basketball*, written and executive produced by Kobe Bryant and directed by Disney animator Glen Keane, and featuring a talk with Bryant and Keane about the project and process; and the World Premiere of *Blues Planet: Triptych*, directed and written by Wyland and featuring a performance by Taj Mahal and the Wyland Blues Planet Band.

Several Tribeca alumni are returning for the 2017 festival, including: Emmy Award-winning Geeta Gandbhir with *Love The Sinner*, Academy Award[®]-winning writer Shawn Christensen (*Curfew*) with *Cul-De-Sac*, David Darg (four time Tribeca alumnus) screens *The Rugby Boys of Memphis*, and Rubika Shah (*Let's Dance: David Bowie Down Under*) returns with *White Riot: London*. Other returning festival alumni include James Burns, Evan Ari Kelman, Seth Kramer, Zoe McIntosh, Daniel Miller, Jeremy Newberger, Michael Premo, and Jim Sheridan.

Recipients of the Tribeca Film Festival awards for Best Narrative Short and Best Documentary Short will qualify for consideration in the Academy Awards' Short Films category, provided the film complies with Academy rules. Since 2004 (with the exception of 2007), Tribeca's program has included a short that has been nominated and/or won in one of these two categories. From last year's Festival selection, three shorts that world premiered at Tribeca were nominated for Oscars: *Joe's Violin, Pearl*, and *Extremis*, which was the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival Award winner for Best Documentary Short.

Tribeca Film festival also bestows a Student Visionary Award, and this year for the first time, a Best Animated Short Award.

Tribeca Film Festival Shorts Program, sponsored by Nutella Originals' Spread the Happy series, includes:

Animated Shorts Curated by Whoopi G

The Animated shorts program showcases imaginative storytelling and captivating craft. *This program is suggested for those 14 and older.*

Curpigeon, directed and written by Dmitry Milkin. (USA) - New York Premiere. A heartwarming story about the power of community support during a time of grief, this action-oriented CG-animated short film centers around a group of park pigeons and their old men pals who come together to help one of their own get through a great loss.

Summer Camp Island, directed and written by Julia Pott. (USA) - New York Premiere. Oscar has to accept that his totally normal sleepover with Hedgehog isn't going to be totally normal.

Odd is an Egg (*Odd er et egg*), directed by Kristin Ulseth, written by Maria Avramova, Kristin Ulseth. (Norway) - North American Premiere. Odd is terrified of his head – until one day he falls in love with Gunn and his life is turned upside down, freeing him from his worries in the most expected way. *In Norwegian with subtitles.*

Angel (*Mon Ange*), directed and written by Gregory Casares. (Switzerland) - International Premiere. Eva and Mr. Corbeau have long felt a reciprocal affection and attraction, but the world of humans and the world of animals don't mix – until one autumn evening, at the masked ball organized by Eva's father in honour of his daughter.

The Talk: True Stories About The Birds & The Bees, directed and written by Alain Delannoy. (Canada) - New York Premiere. There are things in life you never forget. One of them, like it or not, is "The Talk."

Second to None, directed and written by Vincent Gallagher. (Ireland) - New York Premiere. *Second to None* is a black comedy in stop motion about the world's second-oldest man who learns that ambition can be a killer.

Escape, directed by Limbert Fabian, Brandon Oldenburg, written by Limbert Fabian, Brandon Oldenburg, Angus McGilpin. (USA) - World Premiere. A euphoric vision of the future is presented through this cinematic poem about the challenging yet world-changing power of invention as a lone space explorer crash-lands on a desolate planet and must find a way to make her new home habitable.

Dear Basketball, directed by Glen Keane, written by Kobe Bryant. (USA) - World Premiere. Kobe Bryant's inspiring poem *Dear Basketball* is stunningly drawn to life by veteran animation director Glen Keane and set to the music of legendary composer John Williams.

Shorts: Disconnected

Communication is key in the struggle to be heard

Wave, directed by Benjamin Cleary, TJ O'Grady-Peyton, written by Benjamin Cleary. (Ireland) - World Premiere. A sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking story of a very isolated person, *Wave* tells the story of Gaspar Rubicon, who wakes up from a coma speaking a fully formed but unrecognizable language, baffling linguistics experts from around the globe.

Big City, directed by Jordan Bond, Lachlan Ryan, written by Jordan Bond. (Australia) - New York Premiere. Vijay, a lonely taxi driver who recently moved to Melbourne, picks up Chris, a stray drunk who befriends him, and over the course of the night, Chris experiences some of Vijay's troubles and Vijay learns to see the city in a new light.

Big Sister (*Ahotcha*), directed and written by Michal Gassner. (Israel) - International Premiere. Gili has a clear and violent agenda towards male sexual offenders, and finds it difficult to comprehend the limits of her power to repair the world when she discovers her younger brother is suspended from school for a similar violation. *In Hebrew with subtitles.*

Life Boat, directed and written by Lorraine Nicholson. (USA) - World Premiere. Six teenagers are led into an intriguing game of survival by their guidance counselor.

The Navigator (*Kartleseren*), directed and written by Mikal Hovland. (Norway) - World Premiere. A film about trust, human vulnerability, and the fragility of power, *The Navigator* focuses on Jon, who gets the chance of his lifetime reading the pacenotes for his big brother in the upcoming rally championship, but is distracted by a new girl in town. *In Norwegian with subtitles.*

The Suitcase, directed and written by Abi Damaris Corbin. (USA) - World Premiere. The ordinary life of a Boston bred baggage handler is turned upside down when he steals a suitcase that contains terrorist plans. Inspired by true events on 9/11.

Shorts: Human Condition

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

Shooting War, directed by Aeyliya Husain. (Canada) - World Premiere. TIME magazine photographer Franco Pagetti tells the stories behind three photographs as a metaphor for the Iraq War to reveal the impact the conflict has had on a country, a region, and the world.

Skull + Bone, directed by Victoria Rivera. (USA) - World Premiere. For 200 years every Mardi Gras has started the same way: Dressed as skeletons, armed with bones, the Northside Skull and Bone Gang wake the city before dawn with drums, chants and ceremonial knocking on doors to warn people against violence, gunplay and other negative influences on the streets.

Revolving Doors, directed and written by James Burns. (USA) - World Premiere. A portrait of American recidivism produced over a span of two years, *Revolving Doors* follows Jason, who, despite attempts to retain meaningful employment, fails and returns to prison, devastating his family.

White Riot: London, directed by Rubika Shah, written by Ed Gibbs, Rubika Shah. (U.K.) - New York Premiere. This experimental music documentary explores how a generation united against the neo-Nazi National Front in 1970s Britain through a punk fanzine, with black and white coming together through popular culture at a terrifying time of turmoil and division.

Water Warriors, directed by Michael Premo. (Canada, USA) - New York Premiere. When an energy company begins searching for natural gas in New Brunswick, Canada, indigenous and white families unite to drive out the company in a campaign to protect their water and way of life.

Shorts: Last Exit

On the road of life there is no turning back

Oh Damn, directed and written by Pat Bishop and Matt Ingebretson. (USA) - World Premiere. After smoking too much weed on his way to meet a friend at the movie theater, Matt's altered perception hurls him into a dark, surreal series of events that unfold across the theater.

Don't Mess With Julie Whitfield, directed and written by Amy Barham. (USA) - New York Premiere. Julie Whitfield ALWAYS heads the Oak Tree Elementary School Fall Fantasy Fundraiser planning committee, so when new parent Rachel attempts a coup, it leads to a bloody battle that only one woman can survive.

Cul-De-Sac, directed by Damon Russell, written by Shawn Christensen. (USA) - New York Premiere. Parents living at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac discover a listening device inside their son's teddy bear.

Retouch, directed and written by Kaveh Mazaheri. (Iran) - International Premiere. Maryam's husband has an accident at home and, rather than saving him, she stops helping and watches him die. *In Persian with subtitles.*

Buckets, directed and written by Julia Jones. (USA) - North American Premiere. A girl learns the brutal sacrifices it takes to satisfy her love.

Baraka, directed by Néstor Ruiz Medina, written by Néstor Ruiz Medina, Juan Luis Cordero. (Spain) - US Premiere. In the months before the war in Iraq, two close brothers are forced to separate, soon meeting again when the war is in full swing, but neither is the same. *In Arabic, English, Spanish with subtitles.*

Shorts: New York - Group Therapy

Everyone wants to share.

Hair, directed by John Turturro, written by Bobby Cannavale and John Turturro. (USA) - World Premiere. An unscripted dialogue between John Turturro and Bobby Cannavale about a man's particularness about his hair.

Lemon, directed and written by Timothy Michael Cooper. (USA) - World Premiere. Seconds after the wedding, a bride is stunned to learn that her new husband fudged nearly everything about his past, his family, and his accomplishments—but his revelations force her to come clean about a few shocking secrets of her own.

Approaching a Breakthrough, directed and written by Noah Pritzker. (USA) - World Premiere. Back in New York after a stint in Los Angeles, Norman Kaminsky has a terrible argument with his girlfriend just before running into a string of characters from his past – and despite his best efforts, Norman can't seem to run away from his problems.

Joy Joy Nails, directed and written by Joey Ally. (USA) - World Premiere. Sarah manages Joy Joy Nails with a cheerful iron fist – but she gets her manicured claws out when Chinese Mia, a manicurist trainee, looks to be stealing the boss's son's affections, soon discovering that under the varnish, everyone's a victim. *In English, Korean, Mandarin with subtitles.*

The Beehive, directed and written by Jacobie Gray. (Australia) - World Premiere. A superstar socialite seeks revenge when the artist who made her famous finds a younger muse.

Where There's Smoke, directed by Evan Ari Kelman, written by Evan Ari Kelman, Parker Hill. (USA) - World Premiere. After a tragic accident, a firefighter must convince the city commissioner he's able to return to the line of duty.

11th Hour, directed by Jim Sheridan, written by Jim Sheridan, Oskar Slingerland. (Ireland, Mexico) - International Premiere. Based on a true story, *11th Hour* recounts how, on the evening of 9/11, Maria José's bar is heaving with locals united in grief and a building rage; a cop pulls his gun and when a surprise visitor enters Maria has to seize the moment to take back control. *In English, Spanish with subtitles.*

<u>Shorts: Postcards</u>

Five female-centric stories where the past meets the present

Viola, Franca, directed by Marta Savina, written by Marta Savina, Andrea Brusa. (Italy) - World Premiere. It's Sicily in 1965, and Franca is forced to marry her rapist to avoid becoming a pariah in her traditionalist community, but she rebels against the established custom and sets a precedent that alters the course of Italian history, paving the way for women's rights. *In Italian, Sicilian with subtitles.*

Fry Day, directed by Laura Moss, written by Laura Moss, Brendan O'Brien. (USA) - New York Premiere. A teenage girl comes of age against the backdrop of Ted Bundy's execution in 1989.

Dive (*Salta*), directed by Marianne Amelinckx. (Venezuela) - World Premiere. Julia goes back to the pool and remembers that, sometimes, life challenges ourselves to keep going and make decisions. *In Spanish with subtitles.*

Tokyo Project, directed and written by Richard Shepard. (USA) - World Premiere. On a business trip to Tokyo, Sebastian explores the city with a mysterious woman he keeps running into wherever he goes, discovering heartbreakingly that the truth, and the past, are as elusive as love.

Little Bird, directed by Georgia Oakley, written by Emily Taaffe. (U.K.) - World Premiere. Against the backdrop of 1941 London, Little Bird explores how far one young woman will go to create a new life for herself when the women of Great Britain are called upon to aid the war effort.

Shorts: S.O.S.

Helping each other and our planet in these troubled times

Mother's Day, directed by Elizabeth Lo, co-directed by R.J. Lozada. (USA) - World Premiere. The impact of mass incarceration on a generation of youth is explored through an annual Mother's Day charity bus journey that takes children from across California to visit their mothers in prison.

The Good Fight, directed and written by Ben Holman, written by Ben Holman. (Brazil, U.K., USA) - World Premiere. Following a personal tragedy, Alan Duarte opens his own boxing gym to offer salvation and hope to others in the notorious gun violence- ridden favela in Rio de Janeiro where he was born and lives. *In Portuguese with subtitles.*

Silo: Edge of the Real World, directed by Marshall Burnette. (USA) - World Premiere. In this meditation on life in one of the small towns that feeds America, a young farmer and a high school senior each grapple with the dangers of farm life.

The Rugby Boys of Memphis, directed by David Darg. (USA) - New York Premiere. Follow the rise of an innercity Memphis high school's first rugby team and see the ways in which, for these boys, the unlikely sport is much more than a game.

For Flint, directed by Brian Schulz, written by Brian Schulz, Sharika Ajaikumar, Katharina Stroh. (USA) - World Premiere. In the face of a federal emergency deeming its drinking water unsafe for consumption, Flint's resilient citizens rally together to forge a new narrative that is hopeful and optimistic.

Blues Planet: Triptych, directed and written by Wyland. (USA) - World Premiere. *Blues Planet: Triptych* explores the Gulf Oil Spill disaster and its aftermath through environmental artist Wyland who, along with 30 of today's pre-eminent artists, recorded a new genre of global blues on the catastrophe's anniversary.

Shorts: Surf's Up!

Be it surfing for solace or in one of the coldest places on earth, catch the waves

Resurface, directed by Josh Izenberg, Wynn Padula. (USA) - New York Premiere. Struggling with trauma and depression after his military service, Iraq war veteran Bobby Lane wants to cross surfing off his bucket list before taking his life.

Under an Arctic Sky, directed by Chris Burkard, written by Ben Weiland, Chris Burkard. (USA) - World Premiere. A group of surfers along with photographer Chris Burkard journey to Iceland's north coast in search of perfect waves during the largest storm to make landfall in 25 years.

Shorts: Viewfinder

Framing personal impressions of the past

Hilda, directed and written by Kiira Benzing. (USA) - World Premiere. *Hilda* is a realist tribute to octogenarian New Yorker artist Hilda O'Connell who lived shoulder-to-shoulder with the great Abstract Expressionist painters in the '50s and became a member of the Aegis Gallery in the '60s.

The Spring, directed by Delaney Buffett, written by Chloe Corner, Delaney Buffett, Katie Corwin. (USA) - World Premiere. In August 2016, seven female filmmakers, all under the age of 25, traveled to Central Florida to film the women of Weeki Wachee Springs, for whom performing daily mermaid shows is more than a job – it's a craft.

The Godfather of Fitness, directed by Rade Popović, written by Zoran Amar, Rade Popović. (USA, Serbia) - World Premiere. *The Godfather of Fitness* tells the improbable story of how an ambitious boy from California, obsessed with grueling workouts and good nutrition, became one of the most respected men in the world of fitness.

Love the Sinner, directed by Jessica Devaney, Geeta Gandbhir, written by Jessica Devaney. (USA) - World Premiere. *Love the Sinner* explores the Evangelical roots of homophobia in the wake of the Pulse shooting.

Watched, directed by Katie Mitchell. (USA) - World Premiere. An intimate and moving exploration of the experience of coming of age - under the gaze of state surveillance.

Woody's Order!, directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, Jeremy Newberger, written by Daniel A. Miller, Ann Talman. (USA) - World Premiere. Actress Ann Talman finally performs the solo show she wrote for her muse: her brother with cerebral palsy.

Shorts: Your Heart's Desire (Narrative)

The things you want most are often deeply hidden

Alive, directed and written by Sung Hwan Kim. (South Korea) - International Premiere. A 100-meter sprinter faces challenges around the end of his career and his life. *In Korean with subtitles.*

Again, directed by Alexis Jacknow, written by Bekah Brunstetter. (USA) - World Premiere. A man watches *Groundhog Day* over and over again.

The World In Your Window, directed and written by Zoe McIntosh. (New Zealand) - North American Premiere. Squeezed into a tiny caravan, eight-year-old Jesse and his grief-stricken father are in limbo, existing more than living – until an accidental friendship with a V8-driving transsexual unlocks the means for Jesse to liberate his father and himself.

Iron Hands (*铁手*), directed and written by Johnson Cheng. (USA, China) - World Premiere. As a 12-year-old girl prepares for her final test trying out for the traditionally all-boys Chinese youth Olympic weightlifting team, she makes an unlikely connection with the gym's reclusive groundskeeper. *In Chinese with subtitles.*

The Escape, directed and written by Paul Franklin. (U.K.) - World Premiere. *The Escape* asks whether one day we'll all dream of ordinary lives via the story of Lambert, a normal man who, out of his element in a dangerous part of town, negotiates with the mysterious Kellan for the chance to escape into a fantasy of his own choosing.

The Foster Portfolio, directed and written by Danielle Katvan. (USA) - World Premiere. Based on the original short story by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., *The Foster Portfolio* is an offbeat mid-century tale about a rookie investment counselor who discovers that his penniless client is hiding a million-dollar inheritance in order to conceal a strange double life.

Tribeca/ESPN Sports Film Festival: Sports Shorts, Sponsored by Mohegan Sun

A spectrum of stories, styles, and sports, this collection of athletically-minded short films will take audiences on a decades-spanning journey through some of the most unexpected and entertaining tales from sports legends and amateurs alike. **The Amazing Adventures of Wally and the Worm**, directed by Colin Hanks. (USA) - New York Premiere. When Dennis Rodman hurts his knee with four weeks to go in the Chicago Bulls '96-'97 NBA championship season, young assistant trainer Wally Blasé is assigned to oversee his rehab, and the two forge a close friendship over 10 wild days of fast living recounted by director Colin Hanks through animation and firstperson confessions.

Bump & Spike, directed by Michael Jacobs. (USA) - World Premiere. The spectacular rise and fall of the International Professional Volleyball Association, which existed between 1975–1980 complete with "party lifestyle," rocking arena matches and stars on the court and in the stands, is chronicled in this Michael Jacobs-directed film.

The Counterfeiter, directed by Brian Biegel. (USA) - World Premiere. Featuring actual wiretapped phone calls and surveillance video, this film explores how the FBI brought down the largest counterfeit operation in U.S. history during the summer of 1998, thanks to the help of some major league baseball players.

Revolution in the Ring, directed by Jason Sklaver. (USA) - World Premiere. The story of Cuban boxer Teofilo Stevenson, who in 1962 chose to stay in his home country rather than defect, this film examines through the lens of Cuban-American politics how his life and the life of the Cuban people were dramatically altered by the embargo. *In English, Spanish with subtitles.*

Run Mama Run, directed by Daniele Anastasion. (USA) - World Premiere. *Run Mama Run* is an examination of motherhood and athleticism through the eyes of Sarah Brown, an elite track athlete who will continue to train through pregnancy and postpartum with help of her trainer and husband Darren Brown.

Passes and tickets for the 2017 Festival

Advance selection ticket packages are now on sale. All advance selection packages can be purchased online at tribecafilm.com/festival/tickets, or by telephone at (646) 502-5296 or toll free at (866) 941-FEST (3378).

Also available for purchase now is The Hudson Pass, an all access pass to screenings and talks taking place at BMCC, Regal, Cinepolis Chelsea, and SVA as well as full access to all events at the Festival Hub at Spring Studios, which includes VR and immersive projects, special screenings with music performances, and access to the lounges.

Single tickets cost \$21.00 for evening and weekend screenings, \$12.00 for weekday matinee screenings, \$40.00 for Tribeca Talks panels and special screenings, \$30.00 for Tribeca TV, and \$40.00 for Tribeca Immersive. Single ticket sales begin Tuesday, March 28 and can be purchased online, by telephone, or at the ticket outlet located at Cinepolis Chelsea (260 W. 23rd Street). The 2017 Festival will offer ticket discounts on general screenings and Tribeca Talks panels for students, seniors and select downtown Manhattan residents. Discounted tickets are available at Ticket Outlet locations only.

Packages and passes are now available for purchase on the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival App, on: iTunes: <u>https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tribeca-2017/id1208189515?mt=8</u> Google Play: <u>https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tff2017.android</u>

Tickets for events at The Beacon Theatre and at Radio City Music Hall are available for purchase online only beginning March 21.

Images for the film and Festival can be accessed at:

Film stills for the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival are available at <u>www.image.net</u>. If you are not an <u>image.net</u> media user yet, please register using referral code 2604. If you have any issues or your need is time sensitive, please contact <u>blin@TribecaFilmFestival.org</u>.

About the Tribeca Film Festival

The Tribeca Film Festival is a cultural event for the new age of storytelling that brings together visionaries across industries and diverse audiences. It celebrates the power of storytelling in a variety of forms – from film to TV, VR to online work, and music to gaming. As a platform for creative expression, independent filmmaking,

and immersive entertainment, Tribeca champions emerging and established voices, discovers award-winning filmmakers and creators, curates innovative experiences, and introduces new technology and ideas through premieres, exhibitions, talks, and live performances.

The Festival was founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff in 2001 to spur the economic and cultural revitalization of lower Manhattan following the attacks on the World Trade Center. With strong roots in independent film, the annual event has evolved into a destination for creativity, reimagines the cinematic experience, and explores how art can unite communities.

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About the 2017 Partners

As Presenting Sponsor of the Tribeca Film Festival, AT&T is committed to supporting the Festival and the art of filmmaking through access and innovation, while expanding opportunities to diverse creators around the globe. As one of the largest communications and entertainment companies, AT&T helps millions connect to their passions – no matter where they are.

The Tribeca Film Festival is pleased to announce its 2017 Signature Partners: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Bai Beverages, Bloomberg Philanthropies', Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), CHANEL, EFFEN® Vodka, ESPN, IWC Schaffhausen, The Lincoln Motor Company, National CineMedia, Nespresso, New York Magazine, Nexxus Salon Hair Care, Nutella, NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, Spring Studios New York, and United Airlines.

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