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Ag & Art Film Festival

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TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR AG & ART FILM FESTIVAL'S 5th SEASON

Films Screen at Journey Downtown in Downtown Vacaville - September 13-17

Vacaville, California: The 5th Annual Ag & Art Film Festival (AAFF) is happening September 13-17 at Journey Downtown, 308 Main Street, Downtown Vacaville. The Red Carpet Kick Off Party is Wednesday, 9/13 at 5:30 PM at The Library in Downtown Vacaville for filmmakers, sponsors, Festival Passholders, or others on the list. Individual movie tickets and Festival Passes are on sale now on the On Stage Vacaville website.

The Ag & Art Film Festival has partnered with On Stage Vacaville for this year's festival. On Stage Vacaville is a nonprofit 501c3 organization "that strives to support genuine human expression through the arts and facilitate experiences for the community to be valued, represented and entertained."

The Ag & Art Film Festival is a platform to celebrate and raise awareness about agriculture and art/artists around the world. The festival launched in 2019.

All screenings take place during the day in "Movie Blocks" - the first block is at 10:00 AM and the second is at 2:00 PM with a break for lunch in between. The schedule is identical during the day, Thursday - Saturday. On Sunday, the first movie block is at 10:00 AM, then after a short coffee break, the final block begins at 1:00 PM. Each movie block ticket is \$18. Another option is to purchase a Festival Pass (\$125) which gets the passholder into all of the films, the evening programs, the kick off party, and first dibs on purchasing tickets to the Awards Dinner.

Out of 53 film submissions received world-wide, 32 will screen in the festival.

Thursday is a day of art films and an art panel. The film, "*Standing Strong: Elizabeth Catlett*" - screening at 10:00 AM, profiles the struggles and triumphs of Elizabeth Catlett, a Mexican/American artist and political activist who was a pioneer in the Black Arts movement. The 2:00 PM film, "*Darwin Nix*" documents the artist's struggles with "confederate sentimentality" he has witnessed since returning to the small Alabama town he grew up in after living in Memphis, Philadelphia, and Santa Fe as an accomplished fine art painter.

At 6:00 PM, "The Importance of Art" panel, presented by On Stage Vacaville and the Ag & Art Magazine, will happen after the screening of the documentary, "*Soul Providers: Los Angeles*" - a film by filmmaker and festival director, Lisa Murray, that takes us into the thoughts, inspiration, and creative process of five artists who live and work in Los Angeles. One of the film's subjects, Dapo Torimiro, a Nigerian American multi-platinum, Grammy-nominated music producer (Justin Bieber, John Legend) will be one of the panelists after the screening. Another acclaimed panelist is Angela Arteritano, a Venezuelan American multi-disciplinarian, artist, choreographer, and researcher. (Arteritano's short film, "*Retratos Migrantes*" is screening in the 10:00 AM block earlier in the day.) The full list of panelists will be announced soon.

Friday is a day of Ag Films. The morning film block at 10:00 AM kicks off with "*International Ag Shorts*" followed by a Farmer Panel, presented by Solano County Farm Bureau. The short films include, "*The Dairy Farmer*" (UK), "*The Hoof Trimmer*" (US), "*Oot Here Mae Lane*" (IRELAND), and "*Apple Harvest*" (CANADA). The panel is an opportunity for the

public to meet their local farmers and hear about what they do, what they offer, and how the public can interact with and support them.

At 2:00 PM, the multi award-winning, South African film, *"The Last Seed"*, directed by a first-time director, Andrea Gema from Cape Town, South Africa, will screen. 'Through a symphony of evocative music, mesmerizing dance, and captivating visuals, the film delves into the profound themes of seed sovereignty and the delicate balance between humanity and the planet.'

"The Last Seed is a film not-to-be-missed in this year's festival. It is beautifully shot and edited and the information delivered about the perilous state of our food systems and the urgent need for change is vital to every living being on this planet. But as serious as this information is, the film leaves you uplifted in its beautiful finale with women rising up with their 'unwavering determination to safeguard their seeds and indigenous knowledge for future generations'."- Lisa Murray, Festival Director

Saturday's 10:00 AM film, *"The Amphora Project"*, is a film about how the ancient winemaking vessels are being explored by winemakers in San Luis Obispo County. Following the screening, a panel of Solano County Winemakers consisting of Lisa Howard, Owner/Winemaker, Tolenas Winery, Ron Lanza, Owner/Winemaker, Wooden Valley Winery, and Candace Balestra, Owner/Winemaker, Balestra Family Wine, will take the stage to introduce themselves and speak about their wineries located in Suisun Valley/Solano County. This program is presented by The Vacaville Museum as they kick off their *"Fruit of the Vine: A Grape Story"* exhibit (running September 16 - May 18.) Following the screening and panel, VIP Festival Passholders are invited to a "Winemaker Reception" happening at the Vacaville Museum where they will get to taste the winemakers' wine and get to view the exhibit.

The 2:00 PM art film, *"Into the Spotlight"*, is directed by Thaddeus D. Matula, an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning director of scripted and documentary film and television. *"Into the Spotlight"* follows a Dallas-based theatre troupe, composed of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who are determined to write, rehearse, and perform their 11th annual original musical during the 2021-2022 season. Deemed as a "feel-good movie for the entire family", this is sure to be the film that leaves audiences in tears of joy, laughter and sentiment in the festival this year.

Sunday is the final day of films. The morning movie block consists of short ag films and then the 1:00 PM film, *"You Just Can't See Them From the Road"* profiles rancher families in California on the brink of losing their land and way of life. Sprawl threatens ranchers in the Bay Area from every direction. One of the largest Black landowners in the state of California discovers Native American artifacts on his ranch which sends the message home and asks the viewer to think about the important topic of rangeland preservation.

The festival concludes with the "Awards Dinner" happening at Backdoor Bistro. The restaurant is known for sourcing from local farmers and has catered many farm-to-fork events in the area. Tickets will be going on sale for the dinner soon but are included with the VIP Festival Pass. Tickets are extremely limited. It is best to sign up for the festival's email list to be notified when the tickets go on sale.

The 5th Annual Ag & Art Film Festival is sponsored by Elizabeth Fry Intero Real Estate, Gilpin Estate Wine, I-80 Forklift, Downtown Vacaville's Farmers Market, Solano Farm Bureau, Edward Jones, Vacaville Museum, Sustainable Solano, Uptown Fox, On Stage Vacaville, and the Ag & Art Magazine.

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About the Festival Director:

Lisa Murray is an independent filmmaker and host of the I Have Dreams Dammit! podcast. Lisa splits her time between Los Angeles, Vacaville, and Scottsdale, AZ.

For more information about Ag & Art Film Festival, visit <http://agandartfilmfestival.com> or email agandartfilmfestival@gmail.com