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CONTACT INFO

Ag & Art Film Festival

Lisa Murray, Festival Director

Phone: 818-261-5064

agandartfilmfestival@gmail.com

<http://agandartfilmfestival.com>



AG & ART FILM FESTIVAL SHINES A LIGHT ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL FARMERS, AND LOCAL ARTISTS

The 5th Annual Festival Is Happening September 13-17 in Downtown Vacaville

Vacaville, California: The 5th Annual Ag & Art Film Festival is happening September 13-17 at Journey Downtown, 308 Main Street, Downtown Vacaville. The festival has partnered with four community organizations for this year's festival and is hosting three panels, three live musical performances, two wine mixers and a farm-to-table dinner.

The festival has partnered with On Stage Vacaville, Solano County Farm Bureau, Sustainable Solano, and The Vacaville Museum for this year's festival. Each of the four is "presenting" a screening block along with a panel (or short, live performance) preceding or following the screenings.

"I wanted to team up with local organizations, artists and farmers to make the screenings more of a 3-D experience for attendees. Now they can watch films about farming/farmers or art/artists and then meet local farmers and artists to explore and support" - Lisa Murray, Festival Director

On Stage Vacaville is presenting a special screening of the artist documentary produced by Festival Director, Lisa Murray, *"Soul Providers"* along with the panel, "The Importance of Art" on Thursday, 9/14 at 6:00 PM. *Soul Providers* takes us into the thoughts, inspiration, and creative processes of five working artists in Los Angeles: a songwriter/producer for Justin Bieber and John Legend, a songwriter/producer and choreographer for Jordin Sparks and Keke Palmer, an award-winning filmmaker, an independent music artist, and a jewelry designer for Nicki Minaj and Paris Hilton. The panel features one of the film's subjects, Dapo Torimiro, a Nigerian American multi-platinum, Grammy-nominated music producer who was John Legend's personal musical consultant on the film, *La La Land*, as well as having worked with a long list of A-list music artists, Disney, LucasFilm, DefJam, Motown and more. The two other panelists are Vacaville-based artists, Angela Arteritano, a Venezuelan American multi-disciplinarian, artist, and choreographer who works with On Stage Vacaville and who also has a short film in this year's festival - *"Retratos Migrantes"* - screening in the 10:00 AM movie block on the same day. And the third panelist is Renee Converse, a visual artist and local art teacher.

The Solano County Farm Bureau is presenting the "Farm Shorts & Farm Panel" on Friday, 9/15 at 10am. After the screening of International Farm Short films, the "Farm Panel" features two Solano County farmers and one Yolo County farmer. The panelists are: Justina Salina, owner/farmer of Araceli Farms (Dixon), Ben Lyons, owner/farmer of Lockwood Acres (Vacaville), and Rafael Galiano, owner/farmer Park Winters Flower Farm (Winters.) The panel gives festival attendees an opportunity to learn about what their local farmers do, what they offer, and how they can interact with and support them.

Sustainable Solano will be presenters of the 2:00 PM block on Friday, 9/15. Preceding the screening, local artist, Alana Miller will perform, "This Wonderful World", a multi-media musical performance honoring Sustainable Solano's work through song, storytelling and video. After the performance, 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.

"The Last Seed is a film not-to-be-missed in this year's festival. The information 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's cinematography and overall message 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'. If you care about the future of food in the world, I urge you to watch this film." - Lisa Murray, Festival Director

The Vacaville Museum is presenting the Saturday, 9/16, 10:00 AM movie block and panel. The film, "The Amphora Project" is a documentary about ancient winemaking vessels that 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 and Bob Balestra, Owners/Winemakers, Balestra Family Wine, will take the stage to introduce themselves and speak about their wineries located in Suisun Valley/Solano County. The panel is being moderated by Sarah Olsen, Director of The Vacaville Museum. The Vacaville Museum kicks off their "Fruit of the Vine: A Grape Story" exhibit on the same day. 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 new exhibit. A light offering of Italian meatballs, a charcuterie board, and cannolis will be provided by La Borgata Italian Deli (317 Main Street.) Tickets are now available for this special event on the festival's website for non-VIP passholders.

The Red Carpet Kick Off Party is Wednesday, 9/13 at 6:00 PM at The Library, 300 Main Street, in Downtown Vacaville. The kick off party is open for anyone to attend but the festival is asking those interested to RSVP on the festival's website. Tickets and Festival Passes are also available on the festival website: <http://agandartfilmfestival.com>

The 5th Annual Ag & Art Film Festival is sponsored by Ron DuPratt Ford, Elizabeth Fry Intero Real Estate, Western Ranch and Pet Supply, Sweet Peas Pet, Gilpin Estate Wine, I-80 Forklift, Downtown Vacaville's Farmers Market, Solano County Farm Bureau, Kimber Smith - Edward Jones, The Vacaville Museum, Sustainable Solano, Uptown Fox, Cultivate Community Food Co-Op, On Stage Vacaville, and the Ag & Art Magazine and Nugget Markets.

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

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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