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**Ag & Art Film Festival**

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**AG & ART FILM FESTIVAL FILM LINEUP**

*A Film Festival Celebrating Agriculture & Art held in Downtown Vacaville, California,*

*September 13-15, 2019*

**Vacaville, California**: The Ag & Art Film Festival has announced the film lineups for the festival taking place September 13-15 in Downtown Vacaville and it kicks off VACA’s (Vacaville Arts & Cultural Alliance) “Arts Week”. The 2019 inaugural festival will screen films with an agriculture theme, or an art theme, or both. Films are screening at the DeVille Theatre (308 Main Street, Downtown Vacaville) on Friday, 9/13 and Saturday, 9/14 and at Vacaville Opera House (560 Main Street, Downtown Vacaville) on Sunday, 9/15. Individual screening tickets ($10) or festival passes ($50 & $150) are both available online or at the door. A link to the ticket page is on the festival’s website: **AgAndArtFilmFestival.com**

There are two films that include both “ag” (agriculture) and “art” themes that screening at the festival: *“True Blue”* and *“Isabelle Mon Amour”.*

“**True Blue**” is a feature film from female filmmaker and teacher of film at the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore, India, Swati Dandekar. The film explores the materiality and textures of the indigo color and the political and cultural associations with growing and harvesting the plant and then creating the dye and working with textiles. This is juxtaposed cinematically with the meditative nature of the craftsman’s work.

Danish filmmaker, Christine Tholstrup Hermansen’s “**Isabelle Mon Amour**”, is set in a French village in the south of France. It is one of only three narrative films in the festival. The story is about two young people, one French, one Danish, whose lives intersect at a country home in France due to the death of a relative.

There are eight agriculture-themed films in the festival: *“Beauty & Bounty”, “A Regenerative Secret”, “SkyGrazers: A Story About the Flying Farmers”, “Blows with the Wind”, “What A Rancher Looks Like”, “Pioneers”, “From the Ground Up”, and “The Last Crop”.*

Filmmaker, Doug Armknecht, has two films screening in the festival, “**Beauty & Bounty**” and “**Pioneers**”. His award-winning films give us a breathtaking aerial view of a couple of wheat farms in Kansas. His work has screened at numerous festivals including Sundance Film Festival and NYC Drone Film Festival. Online, his farming films have reached millions across the globe, and have served to educate many about the source of their food.

In the film, “**A Regenerative Secret**”, the curtain is pulled back on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and their detrimental impact on our ecosystem. It offers an alternative that most farmers, producers, chefs and consumers aren’t aware of yet – regenerative agriculture.

“**SkyGrazers: A Story of the Flying Farmers**” follows two farmers who fly planes and how they almost lost everything one fateful day. The film gives us a look into the International Flying Farmers association. The filmmakers, Annmarie & Chris Aronoff, will be flying their own plane into Nut Tree Airport on Friday, 9/13.

Take a look at the aftermath of the hurricane in Puerto Rico for a couple of farmers in “**From the Ground Up**”.

“**The Last Crop**” follows Jeff and Annie Main, owners of Good Humas Produce out of Capay Valley as they struggle with the realization that their children may not want to continue the farm business they have worked so hard on all of their adult lives now that their children are becoming adults and are choosing different career paths. Jeff and Annie Main will be at the screening for a Q&A session after the film.

“**What a Rancher Looks Like**” shows us a day in the life of Maggie Schmidt, a female ranch manager in Deer Lodge, Montana, during calving season.

One of the films that was given a scholarship by the festival to enter is the animated, short film, “**Blows with the Wind**.” The filmmaker, Hazhir As’adi, is a graduate from the Iranian Youth Cinema Society. In his award-winning film, we follow the odd occurrences in a scarecrow’s life that makes him become human.

There are five art-themed films in the festival*: “Sleepers in Venice”, “Fill Your Heart”, “I Created You”, “Lily” and “Do I Take the Bunny with Me?”*

The film, “**Lily**”, by Los Angeles-based filmmaker, Adrienne Gruben, is the incredible true story of Lily Renée, who escaped Nazi-occupied Vienna as a teenager, and went on to become one of the true pioneers during the Golden Age of comics.

In the film, “**Do I Take the Bunny with Me**?”, a film by filmmaker, Marcelo Radulovich, we learn about the visually powerful and politically motivated artistic work of San Francisco Bay Area artist, Jim Kimberly. Kimberly, who studied art at San Francisco Art Institute and at U.C. Berkeley, ultimately followed his own insatiable desire for self-expression. His often controversial work garnered him national attention. In 2014, Kimberly was diagnosed with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis – also known as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”). And so, as his challenge with ALS becomes greater, his art and message become stronger.

Noel McIntyre, the director of “**I Created You**”, is an Irish business-owner-turned-filmmaker. This is McIntyre’s first ever film and it won a contest and so is now complimented by an original score composed by Gles Packham and performed by the RTE National Concert Orchestra as part of the winning prize. The documentary follows wood carver, Richie Clarke, as he creates a life-sized carving of King Malachy, High King of Ireland.

“**Sleepers in Venice**” follows a group of passionate artists as they exhibit their art during Venice Biennale.

“**Fill Your Heart**” is a drama that explores the effects of betrayal and addiction between two best friends both striving for success in the music industry. The film is set in Daly City and a large portion of the film was shot in Vacaville, CA.

At the Opening Night “Meeting the Filmmakers” Party, held at a private winery in Vacaville, there will be an art showing featuring local artists’ paintings & sculptures: **Stefan Janosky, Richard Rico, Lisa Rico, Ken Hunter**, as well as a couple of pieces of **Jim Kimberly’s** work. In addition to the art showings, there will be student musicians from the “Live Music Center” performing. There will be a jazz band as well as a chamber music group. The Opening Night Party is for Festival Pass holders only. Festival Passes for the Opening Night Party must be purchased online 24 hours in advance. However, you can purchase Festival Passes at DeVille Theatre on Saturday and at the Opera House on Sunday.

The **Ag & Art Film Festival** and **Downtown Vacaville** are presenting their first joint venture, a free screening for the community of the award-winning film, “**The Biggest Little Farm**” in Andrew’s Park on Saturday, 9/14. Food, beer, and wine will be available for sale starting at 6:00 PM. The movie is scheduled to start at 7:30 PM. (For VIP Pass Holders, there will be a catered tent featuring food from Full Belly Farm and wine from Vezer Family Vineyard. VIP Passes are sold out.)

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**About the Festival Director:**

**Lisa Murray** is an independent filmmaker and host of the I Have Dreams Dammit! podcast. Her feature documentary, “Soul Providers: Los Angeles” will be premiering at the Valley Film Festival in North Hollywood on September 28th. Lisa splits her time between Los Angeles and Vacaville, CA.

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