

THE 26TH ANNUAL
WOODS HOLE
FILM FESTIVAL
WOODS HOLE, CAPE COD

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Woods Hole Film Festival Announces 2017 Line-up

26th Annual festival runs July 29-August 5, in Woods Hole and Falmouth on Cape Cod

WOODS HOLE, MA—The Woods Hole Film Festival (WHFF), the oldest film festival on Cape Cod and the Islands, announces the line-up of its 26th edition, which runs Saturday, July 29 through Saturday, August 5, at five different venues in the village of Woods Hole and in Falmouth. More than 130 films—52 narrative and documentary features and 81 narrative, documentary, and animated shorts—from everywhere from Mashpee to Maine and South Africa to Sri Lanka will screen during the festival. Most films include Q&A's with the more than 100 filmmakers and other special guests attending the festival. Panel discussions about contemporary issues in film and society, master classes, and parties with live music each night round out the festivities.

"We received nearly 1,000 submissions from around the world, from both first-time and veteran filmmakers, enabling us to create an impressive and diverse line-up of independent film," says Founder and Director Judy Laster. "Although film festivals are always changing, we are committed to supporting emerging independent filmmakers by creating a festival environment that is both intimate and thought-provoking, enabling both filmmakers and audience members to have real conversations with one another in an inspiring setting."

Opening day on Saturday, July 29, kicks off with director Jeff Orlowski's documentary **Chasing Coral**. Demonstrating the same adventurous spirit and curiosity that inspired the Emmy Award-winning **Chasing Ice**, a team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. Another opening day highlight is **Diani & Devine Meet the Apocalypse**, an old fashioned, madcap road movie that re-pairs festival alums—and real life romantic and comedy partners—Etta Devine and Gabriel Diani, who also wrote and directed the film and play themselves as a modern day Burns and Allen struggling to make it in show business. When power and communication systems mysteriously shut off, they hit the road in search of a safe haven. The film features a cameo by Golden Globe winner Barry Bostwick (*Rocky Horror Picture Show*) and a multitude of familiar television and film faces.

In keeping with the festival's tradition of featuring films by New England filmmakers or ones set in New England, 18 films with New England connections screen in competition. The world premiere of **Off Season**, a horror/thriller by Robert Cole shot on Martha's Vineyard starring Sosie Bacon (Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgewick's daughter), Chance Kelly (*American Sniper*, *Aquarius*), and many local Martha's Vineyard actors, is highly anticipated (Sunday, July 30). **Can Hitler Happen Here?**, Saskia Rifkin's feature debut, stars Obie, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle award-winning stage, film and TV actress Laura Esterman (who teaches at the Cape Cod Theater Company and is married to the owner of the Cape Cinema) in a story about a wealthy, eccentric older woman in New York who is convinced her family and neighbors are conspiring to take her house away (Friday, August 4). Renowned scientist Dr. Sylvia Earle narrates **Saving Sea Turtles: Preventing Extinction**, a feature documentary by Rhode Island native Michele Gomes and Jennifer Ting, which focuses on the record-breaking 1200 Kemp's Ridley sea turtles stranded in 2014 on Cape Cod, illustrating the threat to the world's most critically endangered sea turtle species (Thursday, August 3).

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Noteworthy shorts with New England connections include: actress and Berkshires resident Karen Allen's (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*) **A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.**, filmed in the Berkshires and based on a Carson McCullers short story (Allen will attend the screening); Sean Gannet's **Last Night in Rozzie**, a narrative written by Boston native Ryan McDonough (AKA party catalyst "Cuervo Man," featured on *This American Life*) shot entirely in Roslindale, MA and that stars his friend Mark Feuerstein (*Royal Pains*); Martha's Vineyard native (and William Styron's daughter) Susanna Styron's **House of Teeth**, about a woman in midlife who sets out to find her bearings after a divorce; Eddie Shore's **Cold Storage**, a documentary about Provincetown in winter; and part-time Maine resident Daniel Casado's **Patagonia Azul: The Interconnection of Life**, which features a group of scientists, including those from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), searching for Blue Whales in Patagonia and reflecting on their role in conservation and the survival of other similar animals.

Music also plays a big role at the festival. Besides the first-rate live music at the nightly parties, this year features a trio of documentaries about some of rock and roll's biggest names: **Joe Cocker: Mad Dog With Soul** by veteran music documentarian John Edginton, which chronicles Cocker's star turn at Woodstock, his struggles with alcohol and drugs, and his ultimate comeback (former bandmates Cliff Goodwin and Deric Dyer will speak after the screening on Sunday, July 30); **Horn From the Heart: The Paul Butterfield Story** by John Anderson, about the Chicago-born blues musician mentored by Muddy Waters and his life's work standing up for racial equality (Friday, August 4); and Sundance winner **Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked The World** by Catherine Bainbridge and Alfonso Maiorana, about the influence of America's indigenous musicians, such as Jimmy Hendrix, Buffy St. Marie, and Robbie Robertson, on modern music, which closes the festival on Saturday, August 5.

For children age 8 and up, the 10th Annual Kids Day offers two fascinating screenings on Sunday, July 30. Needham-bred NASA Astronaut Sunita Williams, whose parents live in Falmouth, will speak at Redfield Auditorium after a screening of **The Mars Generation**, a documentary by New Hampshire native Michael Barnett (*Superheroes*) about several aspiring teenage astronauts imagining what it would take to reach the red planet, while filmmaker-in-residence Josh Seftel will answer questions at Falmouth Academy after a screening of his 2013 documentary **Annie: It's the Hard-Knock Life, from Script to Stage**, which follows the creation of a single production number in the Broadway revival of *Annie* that starred Oscar winner Quvenzhané Wallis (*Beasts of the Southern Wild*).

Seftel will also speak after a screening of his seminal PBS documentary **Taking On the Kennedys** about Patrick Kennedy's (the late Senator Ted Kennedy's son) US Congressional race in 1994, and will lead a master class, "A Singular Voice in a Changing Film Landscape," in which he discusses his broad-based career across genres and platforms, including film, television series, National Public Radio, and print journalism (Monday, July 31).

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Several notable films screening out-of-competition close the festival on Saturday, August 5. Peter Livolsi's feature debut, **The House of Tomorrow**, a comedy based on the best-selling novel, tells the story of futurist, architect, and inventor Buckminster Fuller, the inventor of the geodesic dome, which is especially interesting to residents of Woods Hole where the fate of a Fuller dome built in 1953 is currently being debated. It stars Maude Apatow (Judd Apatow and Leslie Mann's daughter) and Asa Butterfield (*Hugo*) and features Oscar-winner Ellen Burstyn and *Parks and Rec's* Nick Offerman. **I Dream In Another Language** by Mexican director Ernesto Contreras is about a young linguist who is trying to keep a language alive that is only spoken by two elderly men who haven't spoken to one another in 50 years—and who don't plan on starting now. Peter Bratt's **Dolores**, executive produced by musician Carlos Santana, chronicles the work of social activist Dolores Huerta, the lesser-known, but equally influential co-founder of the first farmworkers' union alongside Cesar Chavez. The film finally gives her due credit as one of the 20th century's most tireless fighters for racial and social justice.

Panel discussions, including two about the depiction of science in film, a conversation with programmers from some of the top US film festivals, and a workshop on storyboarding for film and television round out the festival. On Sunday, July 30, "Science and Storytelling," co-produced by ScreenCraft, feature *Star Trek and Beyond* writer Doug Jung, *Heroes* executive producer and writer Nora Kay Foster, filmmaker-in-residence Josh Seftel, *The Mars Generation* director Michael Barnett, and WHOI scientists discussing how scientists and filmmakers work together to tell better stories and accurately depict science. On Friday, August 4, MIT Open Documentary Lab Director Sarah Wolozin leads "The Next Storytelling Frontier: Accessing New Realities with Emerging Technologies," about how nonfiction storytellers are working across platforms with virtual, mixed and augmented reality technologies to tell stories about science that reveal new realities and reach new audiences. On Monday, July 31, Women in Film and Video New England presents "Survival Strategies in Filmmaking" with filmmakers Erika Portnoy (*The 6th Amendment*), Karen Allen (*A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.*), Erika Frankel (*King Georges*), and Catherine Eaton (*The Sounding*).

"We had a very strong winter with our two monthly screening series and the momentum is definitely carrying over to the summer festival," says Associate Festival Director John Gamache. "New audiences, staff, volunteers, community partners, and filmmakers are all coming together to make what will be an amazing and memorable festival."

The festival is supported in part by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Falmouth Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation, the Cape Cod 5 Foundation, and the Woods Hole Foundation. Festival sponsors include Celebrity Cruises, Falmouth Chamber of Commerce, iCape Solutions, innerglow yoga/Cape Cod Yoga School, and Talamas Equipment. Media sponsors include The Enterprise, WBUR's The Artery, Cape Cod Broadcasting, and MVYRadio.

Admission to screenings, panels and parties is \$14 (\$12 for festival members); ticket packages and full festival, VIP, and Falmouth Academy passes are also available. Purchase tickets online at www.woodsholefilmfestival.org or in person during the festival at the box office at the Old Woods Hole Fire Station (72 Water Street). For more information, call (508) 495-3456 or email info@woodsholefilmfestival.org.