



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
RETURN OF ALL-STAR COMEDY ROUNDTABLE**

SHORT FILMS, VR & TALENT REVEALED FOR 2017 EDITION

TV AND TALKS & LATE NIGHT LETTERS NEW TO THE FESTIVAL

**OTHER RETURNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE IN THEIR SHOES,
BEACH SCREENING, MORNING COFFEE & AFTERNOON TEA TALKS**

**PATTI CAKE\$ WRITER/DIRECTOR GEREMY JASPER TO RECEIVE
NEW VOICES IN SCREENWRITING AWARD**

**JENNY SLATE, KRISTEN SCHAAL, WHITNEY CUMMINGS, BRIDGET EVERETT,
PETE HOLMES, CHRIS MATTHEWS, ESAI MORALES, OPHIRA EISENBERG,
TOM CAVANAGH & GABOUREY SIDIBE TO ATTEND FESTIVAL**

New York, NY (May 3, 2017) – The Nantucket Film Festival announced today additional programming for the 2017 line-up, including brand new and returning Signature Programs, Short Films and Virtual Reality, and an additional honoree. NFF also revealed this year’s jurors for the Showtime Tony Cox Screenplay Competitions. The 22nd annual Nantucket Film Festival runs June 21-26, 2017.

This year’s Signature Programs will include a mixture of returning and brand new programs. Returning to NFF is the popular **All-Star Comedy Roundtable, Presented by Ben Stiller**, featuring **Whitney Cummings** (“2 Broke Girls”) and **Kristen Schaal** (“The Last Man on Earth”), and hosted by **Pete Holmes** (“Crashing”); **In Their Shoes...®**, a conversation with honoree **Tom McCarthy** (SPOTLIGHT) and MSNBC’s **Chris Matthews**; **Afternoon Tea Talk** with Academy Award®-nominee **Gabourey Sidibe** (PRECIOUS, “Empire”), which will feature a screening of her directorial debut THE TALE OF FOUR, created as part of Refinery29’s Shatterbox Anthology short film series; a 30th anniversary **Beach Screening** of LA BAMBAs, accompanied by a conversation with star **Esai Morales**; and **Morning Coffee With...®**, a free flowing daily conversation with filmmakers at the festival, hosted by actor and director **Tom Cavanagh** (“The Flash,” “Ed”).

New to NFF this year: **TV and Talks**, which offers audiences a look at special episodes of new television series paired with conversations with series creators or talent, including a sneak preview of episodes of EPIX’s new series **Get Shorty**, as well as a special episode of Netflix’s docuseries **The Keepers**; and **Late Night Letters**, an evening of curated missives from notable writers read by special guests and hosted by NPR’s **Ophira Eisenberg**. Full information on all Signature Programs below.

Jeremy Jasper will receive the New Voices in Screenwriting Award, presented by comedian, actress, and performer **Bridget Everett** (PATTI CAKE\$, *Inside Amy Schumer*, FUN MOM DINNER). Jasper's film PATTI CAKE\$, starring Danielle Macdonald and Everett, will screen at the festival as a Spotlight Film. Previous recipients of this award include Sian Heder, Leslye Headland, Ben Zeitlin and Lucy Alibar, Michael Arndt, Lake Bell, and Mike Cahill. Jasper joins previously announced honorees Oscar®-winning writer/director **Tom McCarthy**, acclaimed documentary filmmaker **Nick Broomfield**, and Emmy-nominated writing team **David Crane** and **Jeffrey Klarik** at the Screenwriters Tribute on Friday, June 23.

Additional films were announced to the NFF lineup, including six Short Film Programs, featuring Micah Perta's **DAYTIME NOON**, starring Olivia Wilde; Maris Curran's **THE MAN IS THE MUSIC**; and Charlotte Barrett's **THE PHANTOM MENACE**, starring Lily Rabe and Eric Ladin.

The festival also announced the sophomore edition of Enter the Story: Virtual Reality Experiences, including Félix Lajeunesse and Paul Raphaël's **THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE: INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE WITH BARACK AND MICHELLE OBAMA**; Danfung Dennis' **MELTING ICE**, featuring Al Gore and Konrad Steffen, a companion piece to NFF Closing Night Film AN INCONVENIENT SEQUEL: TRUTH TO POWER; and Alon Benari, Tal Zubalsky and Alex Vlack's **BROKEN NIGHT**, featuring Emily Mortimer and Alessandro Nivola.

Full lineup for Shorts & Virtual Reality Programs included below.

The NFF also announced their 2017 Juries for the Showtime Tony Cox Screenplay Competitions. Full bios below.

Film Screenplay Jury:

Tom Heller, Partner, Catch & Release Films
Samantha Miller, Senior Editor, *People Magazine*
Milan Popelka, COO, FilmNation Entertainment

Episodic Screenplay Jury:

Eric Gilliland, Writer ("The Wonder Years," "That '70s Show," "Roseanne")
Matt Zoller Seitz, Editor-in-Chief, *RogerEbert.com* and TV critic, *New York Magazine* and *Vulture.com*
Gabourey Sidibe, Actor/Director (PRECIOUS, "Empire," THE TALE OF FOUR)

BRAND NEW SIGNATURE PROGRAMS:

- **TV and Talks** - NFF continues its embrace of episodic content with this showcase of episodes from new series, accompanied by conversations with creators and talent. Included in the Talks are
 - **Sneak Preview of EPIX's *Get Shorty*** - Starring Ray Romano and Chris O'Dowd. NFF will screen the first episode of the series, followed by a conversation with executive producer & showrunner Davey Holmes.
 - **Special Screening of Netflix's docuseries *The Keepers*** – NFF will screen an episode of the series, followed by a conversation with creator Ryan White and main subject "Jane Doe."
- **Late Night Letters** - New to NFF's Signature Programs, this evening will deliver curated missives from notable writers (Noël Coward), actors (Richard Burton), and comedians (Tina Fey), who, through their intimate and engaging correspondences, will allow us a peek into their iconic personalities. Handpicked storytellers will share these unique historical letters, as well as their own stories. Hosted by NPR's Ophira Eisenberg.

POPULAR RETURNING SIGNATURE PROGRAMS:

- **All-Star Comedy Roundtable** – An intimate roundtable with the best comedic writers, directors, and actors in one of the festival’s most memorable events. Featuring all women this year with Whitney Cummings (“Whitney,” ”2 Broke Girls,” ”Chelsea Lately”), Kristen Schaal (“The Last Man on Earth,” ”30 Rock,” LITERALLY, RIGHT BEFORE AARON), and hosted by Pete Holmes (HBO’s ”Crashing,” executive produced by Judd Apatow).
- **In Their Shoes...** – Chris Matthews (host of MSNBC’s ”Hardball with Chris Matthews” and NBC’s ”The Chris Matthews Show”) moderates in-depth conversations with filmmakers and special guests, providing an intimate glimpse into their lives. Oscar®-winning writer/director Tom McCarthy (2017 NFF Honoree) will participate.
- **Afternoon Tea Talk: Gabourey Sidibe** – Oscar-nominated actress Gabourey Sidibe (PRECIOUS, ”Empire”) presents a screening of her directorial debut, THE TALE OF FOUR, followed by a lively, moderated conversation accompanied by tea and treats.
- **Morning Coffee With...** – This perennial audience favorite kicks off each day of the festival with a fun, free-flowing conversation between attending NFF writers and directors. Hosted by actor and director Tom Cavanagh (“The Flash,” ”Ed”).
- **Beach Screening: 30th Anniversary of LA BAMBA** – Free community event at Children’s Beach with live music, interview with LA BAMBA star Esai Morales, followed by screening.

SHORT FILMS AT NFF:

Narrative Shorts: Feeling Connected

Exploring the universal desire to connect.

BACKSTORY (Writer/Director: Joschka Laukeninks)

IMPORT (Writer/Director: Ena Sendijarević)

KASHTA (Writer/Director: A.J. Al Thani)

THE MAN WHO FORGOT TO BREATHE (Writer/Director: Saman Hosseinpuor)

MODERN HOUSES (Writer/Director: Matthew Dixon), featuring Lili Taylor

MR. SUGAR DADDY (Writer/Director: Dawid Ullgren)

Narrative Shorts: Through the Fire

Looking at life’s challenges.

DAYTIME NOON (Writer/Director: Micah Perta, Writers: Lauren Sanderson Kilgore, Traci Terrill), featuring Olivia Wilde

FELL (Writer/Director: Holly Voges, Writer: Lisa Joyce)

THE FINGER (Writers: Chris Carfizzi, Hilary Mann, Director: Corydon Wagner)

GAME (Writer/Director: Jeannie Donohoe), featuring Rick Fox (LA Lakers), Tye White (“The People vs O.J. Simpson”), Jamie McShane (GONE GIRL)

I’M IN HERE (Writer/Director: Willy Berliner)

LAURELS (Writer/Director: David Brundige)

THE PHANTOM MENACE (Writer/Director: Charlotte Barrett, Writer: Sean Fallon), featuring Lily Rabe and Eric Ladin (“Boardwalk Empire”)

SCRAP DOLLS (Writer/Director: Aude Cuenod)

Documentary Shorts: Life Journeys

Five stories to tell, five journeys to share.

ALONE (Director: Garrett Bradley)

EYES OF EXODUS (Director: Alexandra Liveris)

THE MAN IS MUSIC (Director: Maris Curran)

THE MARGARET LAMBERT STORY (Director: Nina Horowitz)
WAITING FOR HASSANA (Director: Ifunanya Maduka)

Documentary Shorts: Reaching For the Stars

True stories about encountering the unexpected.

BALLOONFEST (Director: Nathan Truesdell)
BEDSIDE MANNER (Director: Corinne Botz)
CONNECTIFAI (Director: Zoe Garcia)
GUT HACK (Director: Mario Furloni)
RAJ AND THE REBELLION (Director: Nathan Reich)
TEN METER TOWER (Directors: Maximilien Van Aertryck, Axel Danielson)

Animated Shorts

Some of the best in contemporary animation. Suitable for ages 12 and up.

BARTLEBY (Writers/Directors: Laura Naylor, Kristen Kee)
BULLET TIME (Writer/Director: Frodo Kuipers, Writers: Merlijn Passier, Rudi Brekelmans)
FISHWITCH (Writer/Director: Adrienne Dowling, Writers: Jenna Jovi, H el ene Sifre)
FOX AND THE WHALE (Writer/Director: Robin Joseph)
LI.LE (Writer/Director: Natia Nikolashvili)
A LOVE STORY (Writer/Director: Anushka Kishani Naanayakkara, Writer: Elena Ruscombe-King)
THE MARCH OF THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL (Writers/Directors: Anne Baillod, Jean Faravel)
MOONWOLVES (Writers: Malin Ahlin, Hans  ke Gabrielsson, Director: Nima Yousefi)
SCRAMBLED (Writer/Director: Bastiaan Schravendeel)
SPRING JAM (Writer/Director: Ned Wenlock, Writer: Christopher Brandon)

Kids' Shorts

Live action and animated stories for children 4 and up.

CRAB STORY (Writers/Directors: Tatiana Poliektova, Filippo Rivetti)
JAZZOO (Writer/Director: Adam Marko-Nord)
LITTERBUGS (Writer/Director: Peter Stanley-Ward, Writer: Natalie Conway)
THE LITTLE BIRD AND THE CATERPILLAR (Writer/Director: Lena von D hren)
OCEAN SONG (Writer/Director: Erica Liu)
PERCHED (Writers: Eoin Doran, Nathaniel Price, Director: Liam Harris)
SABAKU (Writer/Director: Marlies van der Wel, Writer: Ruben Picavet)
SUMMER CAMP ISLAND (Writer/Director: Julia Pott, "Adventure Time")
WISHFUL WHISKERS (Writer/Director: Pulkit Datta)

Special Shorts Presentations:

THE ILLUMINATION (Director: Tom Scott)

Documentary. In a remarkable twist of fate, the effort of one blind person, Gordon Gund, made it possible for another, Yannick Duwe, to see.

THE TALE OF FOUR (Director: Gabourey Sidibe, Writers: Ayanna McMichael, Kia Perry)
Narrative. This multi-layered story inspired by Nina Simone's "Four Women" spans one day in the lives of four different women, who are connected through their quest for love, agency, and redemption. Featuring Ledisi Young and Jussie Smollett ("Empire"). Gabourey Sidibe's directorial debut is part of Refinery29's Shatterbox Anthology short film series, which works to cultivate and spotlight the voices of women behind the camera, in order to provide emerging female filmmakers with the support to realize their creative vision.

ENTER THE STORY: VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCES AT NFF:

ALTERATION

Project Creator: Jerome Blanquet

Key Collaborators: Yann Apperry, Baptiste Chesnais, Julien Bercy, Irène Marinari, Gary Brocaud, Juliette Mesnager, Jean Chesneau

AUTO

Project Creator: J. Steven Schardt

Key Collaborator: Megan Griffiths

BROKEN NIGHT

Project Creators: Alon Benari, Tal Zubalsky, Alex Vlack

Key Collaborators: Eko, Hidden Content, Realmotion, Irving Harvey

Featuring: Emily Mortimer, Alessandro Nivola

INDEFINITE

Project Creator: Darren Emerson

MELTING ICE

Project Creator: Danfung Dennis

Key Collaborators: Diana El-Osta, David Casey, Sara Dosa, Richard Berge

Featuring: Al Gore, Konrad Steffen

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE: INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE WITH BARACK AND MICHELLE OBAMA

Project Creators: Félix Lajeunesse, Paul Raphaël

Featuring: Barack Obama, Michelle Obama

STEP TO THE LINE

Project Creator: Ricardo Laganaro

Key Collaborators: Defy Ventures, Oculus VR for Good

THROUGH YOU

Project Creators: Lily Baldwin, Saschka Unseld

Key Collaborators: Elliott Whitton, Shruti Ganguly

TRACES

Project Creator: Gabriela Arp

UNDER A CRACKED SKY

Project Creator: The New York Times

Key Collaborators: Jonathan Corum, Graham Roberts

ZERO DAYS: VR

Project Creator: Yasmin Elayat

Key Collaborators: Mei-Ling Wong, Alexander Porter, James George

TV AND TALK PROGRAM INFORMATION:

ABOUT *Get Shorty*

Based on Elmore Leonard's 1990 New York Times bestselling novel, *Get Shorty* is a 10-episode dark comedy coming to EPIX later this year. It follows Miles Daly, played by Chris O'Dowd (BRIDESMAIDS, THIS IS 40, LOVE AFTER LOVE) who works as muscle for a murderous crime

ring in Nevada and attempts to change professions and become a movie producer, laundering money through a Hollywood film. Three-time Emmy award winner Ray Romano ("Everybody Loves Raymond," "Parenthood," THE BIG SICK) stars as Rick, a washed up producer of low quality films who becomes Miles' partner and guide through the maze of Hollywood. *Get Shorty* also stars Sean Bridgers, Lidia Porto, Megan Stevenson, Goya Robles, Lucy Walters, and Carolyn Dodd.

Created and executive produced by Davey Holmes ("Shameless," "In Treatment," "Damages"), *Get Shorty* is co-executive produced by Adam Arkin, who also directs three episodes. *Get Shorty* is produced by MGM Television.

ABOUT *The Keepers*

From director Ryan White (NFF alum with THE CASE AGAINST 8, SERENA, GOOD OL' FREDA) comes *The Keepers*, a riveting seven-part documentary series about the unsolved murder of a Baltimore nun and the horrific secrets and pain that linger nearly five decades after her death.

Sister Cathy Cesnik, a beloved nun and Catholic high school teacher in Baltimore, went missing on November 7, 1969. In the 1990s, one of Sister Cathy's former students – a woman only known as "Jane Doe" – came forward to reveal her own harrowing story and disturbing details about Sister Cathy's case - but the truth still remained elusive. White pieces together a larger story that goes beyond the death of a beloved Catholic schoolteacher to encompass clergy abuse, repressed memories, and allegations of an extensive cover-up.

The Keepers is a Netflix Original Documentary Series.

FULL JURY BIOS

Film Screenplay Jury:

Tom Heller is a producer and partner at the film production company Catch & Release Films. Heller has produced and executive produced a string of critically acclaimed independent films over the last six years, including the Academy Award®-nominated FOXCATCHER, 127 HOURS, and PRECIOUS, as well as MUD and WIN WIN.

Samantha Miller is a senior editor at *People*, where she oversees movie coverage, and previously served as TV editor, senior writer, and technology columnist. She lives in Brooklyn and is the author of *E-Mail Etiquette*. Her favorite movie of all time is SOME LIKE IT HOT- or sometimes BADLANDS.

Milan Popelka is the COO at FilmNation Entertainment, where he oversees all day-to-day operations, strategic planning/business development, and finance. Recent FilmNation production/finance titles include ARRIVAL, THE FOUNDER, THE BIG SICK, and GIFTED, while sales titles include critically lauded films such as THE KING'S SPEECH, ROOM, and THE IMITATION GAME.

Episodic Screenplay Jury:

Eric Gilliland has written for numerous television shows, including "The Wonder Years," "That '70s Show," and "Roseanne." Enough people got fired from "Roseanne" that he became executive producer and head writer. To take a break from earning money, he produced the Sundance award-winning documentary GOD GREW TIRED OF US.

Matt Zoller Seitz is the Editor-in-Chief of RogerEbert.com. He is also the TV critic for *New York Magazine* and Vulture.com, and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in criticism. His writing on film and television has appeared in *The New York Times*, Salon.com, *The New Republic* and *Sight and Sound*. Seitz is the founder and original editor of the influential film blog *The House Next Door*, now a part of *Slant Magazine*, and the co-founder and original editor of *Press Play*, an IndieWire blog of film and TV criticism and video essays.

A Brooklyn-based writer and filmmaker, Seitz has written, narrated, edited or produced over a hundred hours' worth of video essays about cinema history and style for *The Museum of the Moving Image*, Salon.com and [Vulture](http://Vulture.com), among other outlets. His five-part 2009 video essay *Wes Anderson: The Substance of Style* was spun off into the hardcover book [*The Wes Anderson Collection*](#). This book and its follow-up, [*The Wes Anderson Collection: Grand Budapest Hotel*](#) were *New York Times* bestsellers.

Other Seitz books include [*Mad Men Carousel: The Complete Critical Companion*](#), [*The Oliver Stone Experience*](#), and [*TV \(The Book\)*](#). He is currently working on a novel, a children's film, and a book about the history of horror, co-authored with RogerEbert.com contributor Simon Abrams.

Gabourey Sidibe made her film debut as the lead in Lee Daniels' Oscar®-nominated *PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE*, for which she received an Academy Award® and Golden Globe® nomination for Best Actress. In television, credits include Fox's Golden Globe-nominated "Empire," FX's "American Horror Story: Coven," Showtime's Golden Globe-nominated "The Big C," and Hulu's "Difficult People." Gabourey just released her memoir, *This Is Just My Face: Try Not To Stare*, and her directorial debut for Refinery29 as part of their ShatterBox Anthology series, *THE TALE OF FOUR*, screens at NFF this year.

The 22nd Annual Nantucket Film Festival runs June 21-26, 2017. Passes and ticket packages are on sale now on the festival's website (www.nantucketfilmfestival.org).

Over the past 21 years the Nantucket Film Festival has mixed highly anticipated awards contenders with the films of talented emerging filmmakers. NFF has brought together the film industry's most recognized screenwriters and storytellers, including Oliver Stone, Steve Martin, Judd Apatow, Beau Willimon, Kathryn Bigelow, Sarah Silverman, Alexander Payne, David O. Russell, Diane Keaton, Robert Towne, Glenn Close, and Aaron Sorkin. NFF has also produced the All-Star Comedy Roundtable Presented by Ben Stiller; the ever-popular Late Night Storytelling event featuring personal stories with a specific theme from the likes of Mike Birbiglia, Tina Fey, Michael Ian Black, Lily Taylor, and many others; and the insightful conversation series *In Their Shoes...*, which has included Robin Wright and Beau Willimon with Chris Matthews, Molly Shannon with Michael Ian Black, and Bradley Whitford with Chris Matthews.

ABOUT THE NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL

The Nantucket Film Festival was founded by brother and sister team Jonathan and Jill Burkhart in 1996 to promote the cultural awareness and appreciation of the fine art of screenwriting in the world of cinema. Since then, NFF has become one of the premier destination film festivals in the world. Visitors come from all over to experience the preview screenings, unique signature programs, and stand out hospitality on a magical island rich with history, a friendly atmosphere, and beautiful sandy beaches. In addition to screening over 75 films across six days, *The Screenwriters Tribute*, *In Their Shoes...* hosted by Chris Matthews, *Late Night Storytelling*, the *daily Morning Coffee With...* series, and much more.

The Nantucket Film Festival is supported by Showtime, The White Elephant Nantucket Island Resorts as Major Sponsors; A&E IndieFilms,, BrandContent, and Delta Air Lines as Signature Sponsors; Diageo, Cape Air/Nantucket Airlines, Stella Artois, Entravision, Harborview Nantucket,

Pure Leaf Iced Tea and Travel+Leisure as Producing Sponsors; and Lifetime, The Beachside on Nantucket, Citi, Maui Jim, Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket Today, Nantucket Bank, SAGIndie, Festily, and the WGA East as Contributing Sponsors.

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