



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
BEN STILLER AND MIKE BIRBIGLIA TO CO-HOST 2018 SCREENWRITERS TRIBUTE**

**ADAM DRIVER AND GARRETT HEDLUND TO PRESENT AT TRIBUTE**

**RETURNING PROGRAMS:  
IN THEIR SHOES...<sup>®</sup> WITH NOAH BAUMBACH, ADAM DRIVER & BEN STILLER  
MORNING COFFEE WITH...<sup>®</sup> HOSTED BY TOM CAVANAGH  
WOMEN BEHIND THE WORDS**

**ADDITIONAL FILM PROGRAMMING:  
SHORT FILMS, VR & SPECIAL SCREENING OF *BALLET NOW***

**New York, NY (May 22, 2018)** – The Nantucket Film Festival (NFF) announced today additional programming for the 2018 line-up and talent attending the Festival, including co-hosts and presenters for the 2018 Screenwriters Tribute. The 23rd annual Nantucket Film Festival runs June 20-25, 2018.

Actor, writer, director and producer **Ben Stiller** (THE MEYEROWITZ STORIES (NEW AND SELECTED), TROPIC THUNDER, MEET THE PARENTS) and actor/comedian **Mike Birbiglia** (DON'T THINK TWICE, TRAINWRECK) will co-host the **2018 Screenwriters Tribute** on Saturday, June 23, 2018. Actor **Adam Driver** (STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI, Jim Jarmusch's PATERSON, Spike Lee's BLACKKKLANSMAN) will present the previously announced Screenwriters Tribute Award to Oscar<sup>®</sup>-nominated writer/director **Noah Baumbach**. Driver has appeared in Baumbach's THE MEYEROWITZ STORIES (NEW AND SELECTED), WHILE WE'RE YOUNG and FRANCES HA, and recently completed shooting Baumbach's latest feature opposite Scarlett Johansson. Actor **Garrett Hedlund** (MUDBOUND, BILLY LYNN'S LONG HALFTIME WALK) will present **Andrew Heckler** with the New Voices in Screenwriting Award. Hedlund stars alongside Forest Whitaker and Andrea Riseborough in Heckler's Sundance Audience Award-winner BURDEN, which will screen at the Festival.

Returning programs at this year's Festival include **In Their Shoes...<sup>®</sup>**, a conversation between MSNBC's Chris Matthews and Noah Baumbach, Adam Driver, and Ben Stiller; as well as the daily **Morning Coffee With...<sup>®</sup>**, sponsored by *The Inquirer & Mirror*, a daily kick-off discussion between attending writers, directors, and new host Tom Cavanagh (*The Flash, Ed*).

Also returning is **Women Behind the Words**, sponsored by Lifetime, which had its inaugural event in 2015, focused on gender inequality in the entertainment industry. Following a year of new conversations and developments in the wake of #MeToo and the Time's Up movements, NPR's *Ask Me Another* host **Ophira Eisenberg** will moderate a conversation to discuss what comes next. Guests include actresses **Jeanne Tripplehorn** (*Big Love, WE ONLY KNOW SO MUCH*) and **Alysia Reiner** (*Orange Is the New Black, EGG*), television writer/producer **Sera Gamble** (Lifetime's

upcoming *You, The Magicians*), and actress, director, and producer **Miranda Bailey** (SWISS ARMY MAN, YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR FAMILY).

Additional film programming announced as part of the 2018 Festival includes a special screening of documentary feature **BALLET NOW**, directed by Steven Cantor, and executive produced by Paul G. Allen's Vulcan Productions and actress Elisabeth Moss, on the final day of the Festival, Monday, June 25. Cantor will also be present for a post-screening conversation.

This intimate documentary provides a candid behind-the-scenes look at the world of ballet, following New York City Ballet's Prima Ballerina Tiler Peck, the first woman to curate the Music Center's famed BalletNOW, as she attempts a fresh new approach by merging the worlds of ballet, tap, and hip-hop together through a groundbreaking one-of-a-kind performance. Throughout the film, as Tiler faces the demands of an incredibly challenging production, she is driven to show young people the beauty, possibilities and freedom of dance and expression. Executive Producer, Paul G. Allen has always had a passion and commitment for the classical arts, and hopes that showcasing the ballet world and the arts as a whole will continue to inspire and engage younger audiences, while affecting enthusiasts.

Also revealed were six **Short Film Programs**, including Miguel Alvarez's ATLANTIC CITY featuring Raúl Castillo, Ross Kauffman's BOY BOY GIRL GIRL featuring Katie Holmes, Pete Lee's DON'T BE A HERO featuring Missy Pyle, and Tom Cavanagh's TOM AND GRANT featuring Cavanagh and Grant Gustin, his co-star from *The Flash*; as well as a new program putting the spotlight on some of the year's most-honored shorts.

Finally, the third edition of **Enter the Story: Virtual Reality Experiences** has been unveiled, including MY AFRICA, narrated by Academy Award winner Lupita Nyong'o; TAKE EVERY WAVE: LAIRD IN VR featuring Laird Hamilton; and immersive titles straight from the VR arcades at SXSW and Tribeca: DINNER PARTY, FIRE ESCAPE, and MY JOURNEY.

Full lineup for Shorts & Virtual Reality Programs included below.

The Festival also announced their **2018 Juries** for the Showtime Tony Cox Screenplay Competitions. Full bios below.

Film Screenplay Jury:

**Miranda Bailey**, filmmaker/actor (*YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR FAMILY*)

**Dade Hayes**, editor, *Deadline Hollywood*

**Janet Pierson**, director of film, SXSW

Episodic Screenplay Jury:

**Paul Eckstein**, writer/producer (*Godfather of Harlem, Narcos*)

**Sera Gamble**, showrunner/writer/producer (*You, The Magicians*)

**Lydia Cavallo Zasa**, executive director, Screenwriters Colony

## **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING ANNOUNCED:**

### **Feature Film Program addition:**

#### **BALLET NOW**

Documentary Feature

Director: Steven Cantor

Executive Producers: Vulcan Productions, Paul G. Allen, Elisabeth Moss

*Ballet Now* provides a rarely seen, unfiltered glimpse into the world of ballet and what it takes to create a one-of-a-kind dance extravaganza. Featuring New York City Ballet's Prima Ballerina Tiler Peck - the first ever woman to be asked to curate The Music Center's famed BalletNOW program - and a diverse cast of world-class dancers from around the globe, the film follows Tiler as she tries to execute her groundbreaking vision of mashing together the worlds of tap, hip-hop, ballet and even clown artistry.

### **Short Film Programs:**

#### COMEDY, REMIXED

Humorous stories showcasing comedy in all its shades.

TOM AND GRANT (Writer/Director: Tom Cavanagh)

MAUDE (Writer/Director: Anna Margaret Hollyman)

MOTHER, MOTHER (Writer/Director: Robert Machoian, Director: Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck)

SECOND BEST (Writer/Director: Alyssa McClelland, Writer: Simone Moessinger)

HAIRCUT (Writer/Director: David Brundige)

DON'T BE A HERO (Writer/Director: Pete Lee)

#### EVERYTHING IS GONNA BE ALRIGHT

In these narrative shorts, when things are going wrong, you can wait for the tide to turn or fix it yourself.

UZMA THE GREATEST (Writer/Director: Christopher Hawthorne)

CHEER UP BABY (Writer/Director: Adinah Dancyger)

THE OFF SEASON (Writer/Director: Tucker Pearson)

SALAM (Writer/Director: Claire Fowler)

ATLANTIC CITY (Writer/Director: Miguel Alvarez)

OKAASAN (MOM) (Writer/Director: Kana Hatakeyama)

EMERGENCY (Writer: K.D. Dávila, Director: Carey Williams)

#### IT'S ALL TRUE

Nonfiction stories - animated, interviewing, reminiscing, profiling, reporting, observing, and illuminating.

LOTTE THAT SILHOUETTE GIRL (Writers/Directors: Elizabeth Beecherl, Carla Patullo, Writer: Jennifer Maisel)

I LOVE YOUR F\*CKING NAME (Director: Finn O'Hara)

SUPER 8 DAZE (Directors: John Morgan, Rob Hampton)

EMPIRE ON MAIN STREET (Director: Jessica Congdon)

THE WATER SLIDE (Director: Nathan Truesdell)

SPACESAVERS (Director: Sarah Ginsburg)

HOMELESS: THE SOUNDTRACK (Director: Irene Taylor Brodsky)

#### KIDS SHORTS

Live-action and animated stories for children ages 4 and up.

LOSER LEAVES TOWN (Writer/Director: Mark Nickelsburg, Writer: Eric Johnson)

FRUITS OF CLOUDS (Writer/Director: Kateřina Karhánková)

POLES APART (Writer/Director: Paloma Baeza)

THE POCKET MAN (Writer/Director: Ana Chubinidze)  
ANT (Writer/Director: Julia Ocker)  
LION (Writer/Director: Julia Ocker)  
IF YOU FALL (Writer/Director: Tisha Deb Pillai)  
I THINK MY DAD'S A SUPERHERO (Writer: Butch Hartman)  
UNDISCOVERED (Writer/Director: Sara Litzenberger)

#### LIFE CHAPTERS

Two true stories: Women asserting their rights during the Sexual Revolution and terminally-ill patients claiming their power in their last days.

SIDELINED (Director: Galen Summer)  
END GAME (Director: Rob Epstein)

#### SHORTS OF THE YEAR

A collection of official selections and jury winners from the best film festivals around the world. Pre-game your Oscar Shorts selections here.

HAIR WOLF (Writer/Director: Mariama Diallo)  
MY DEAD DAD'S PORNO TAPES (Writer/Director: Charlie Tyrell)  
WHILE I YET LIVE (Director: Maris Curran)  
MANIVALD (Writer/Director: Chintis Lundgren, Writer: Draško Ivezić)  
A GENTLE NIGHT (Writer/Director: Yang Qiu)  
CAROLINE (Writers/Directors: Logan George, Celine Held)  
THE DRIVER IS RED (Director: Randall Christopher)

#### SHORTS SCREENING BEFORE FEATURES

BAO (Writer/Director: Domee Shi)  
BOY BOY GIRL GIRL (Writer/Director: Ross Kauffman, Writer: Addie Morfoot)  
FIRED UP! (Directors: Dan Fipphen, Elyse Kelly)  
NEGATIVE SPACE (Writers/Directors: Max Porter, Ru Kuwahata)  
THE SHIFT (Director: Elivia Shaw)  
TEA PARTY (Writer/Director: Emily Shesh)  
THIS NEW SEA (Director: Jamie Drew)

#### **Enter the Story: Virtual Reality Experiences:**

##### DINNER PARTY

Project Creators: Angel Manuel Soto, Charlotte Stoudt, Laura Wexler  
Key Collaborators: Rachel Skidmore, Bryn Mooser, Erik Donley

##### THE DREAM COLLECTOR

Project Creator: Li Mi

##### FIRE ESCAPE

Project Creators: Vassiliki Khonsari, Navid Khonsari, Andres Perez-Duarte, Sam Butin  
Key Collaborators: Lulu LaMer, Maria Essig

##### GREENLAND MELTING

Writers/Directors: Julia Cort, Nonny de la Peña, Catherine Upin  
Writers: Carla Borrás, Caitlin Saks  
Director: Raney Aronson

#### INTO THE NOW

Project Creator: Michael Muller  
Key Collaborators: Michael Smith, Morne Hardenberg

#### THE JOURNEY

Writer/Director: Charlotte Mikkelborg

#### KINOSCOPE

Project Creators: Clement Léotard, Philippe Collin

#### MY AFRICA

Project Creators: Conservation International, Passion Planet, Vision3  
Key Collaborators: The Tiffany & Co. Foundation

#### REVOKED

Writer/Director: Stevo Chang

#### TAKE EVERY WAVE: LAIRD IN VR

Writer: Tarik Benbrahim  
Director: Elijah Allan-Blitz

#### UTURN

Writer/Director: Ryan Lynch  
Project Creator/Director: Nathalie Mathe  
Project Creator: Justin Chin

#### WE'RE STILL HERE

Writer/Director: Jesse Ayala  
Writer: Connor Lonning

#### **Jury Bios:**

##### Film Screenplay Jury:

Miranda Bailey is a producer, actor, and director. Among the films she has produced are the Oscar®-nominated *THE SQUID AND THE WHALE*, the Spirit Award-winning *THE DIARY OF A TEENAGER GIRL*, and *SWISS ARMY MAN*. Bailey's directorial narrative feature debut, *YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR FAMILY*, premiered at SXSW and screens at NFF this year. She previously directed the documentary features *GREENLIT* and *THE PATHOLOGICAL OPTIMIST*. Bailey recently launched CherryPicks, a film site consisting of reviews by female critics, countering the inherent male bias on other sites.

Dade Hayes is a New York-based contributing editor at *Deadline Hollywood*. He has held senior editor positions at *Variety* and *Entertainment Weekly* and has written for *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *TV Guide*, among other publications. Hayes is the author of two books, *Anytime Playdate: Inside the Preschool Entertainment Boom, Or, How Television Became My Baby's Best Friend*, and *Open Wide: How Hollywood Box Office Became a National Obsession*.

Janet Pierson is the director of film at SXSW, responsible for the vision, programming, and

execution of the SXSW Film Festival. Before joining SXSW in 2009, Pierson spent over 30 years championing independent films and filmmakers in a variety of roles, including exhibitor, producer's rep, executive producer, segment director of the IFC cable TV series *Split Screen*, and as a subject in the Steve James documentary REEL PARADISE.

Episodic Screenplay Jury:

Paul Eckstein is the creator and executive producer of the upcoming Disney/Epix drama *Godfather of Harlem* starring Forest Whitaker. He wrote and produced the first year of Netflix's *Narcos* and ABC's *Of Kings and Prophets*. Eckstein started out with the Naked Angels theater company, where he produced *Naked Rights* and *Gunplay*, among others.

Sera Gamble is a showrunner, writer, and producer. Currently, she is the writer and executive producer of *The Magicians* (SyFy), which she co-created with John McNamara, and co-creator and writer of *You* (Lifetime). Previously she was a writer and producer for *Aquarius* (NBC) and *Supernatural* (CW).

Lydia Cavallo Zasa is executive director of Screenwriters Colony, an organization dedicated to increasing the number of groundbreaking stories in popular culture by discovering emerging writers with singular voices and supporting them with nurturing residency and mentorship programs. Previously Lydia ran the Columbia University Film Festival for over a decade and started the school's ScriptConnect program linking graduating writers with the film industry.

The 23rd Annual Nantucket Film Festival runs from June 20-25, 2018. Festival passes and ticket packages are currently on sale now on the NFF's website ([www.nantucketfilmfestival.org](http://www.nantucketfilmfestival.org)).

Over the past 22 years the Nantucket Film Festival has mixed highly anticipated awards contenders with the films of talented emerging and established filmmakers. NFF has brought together the film industry's most recognized screenwriters and storytellers, including Tom McCarthy, Oliver Stone, Steve Martin, Judd Apatow, Tom McCarthy, 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, and the insightful conversation series In Their Shoes With...<sup>®</sup>, which has included Robin Wright and Beau Willimon with Chris Matthews, Tom McCarthy with Bobby Cannavale, 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 the world 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 100 films across six days, NFF presents the Screenwriters Tribute, In Their Shoes...<sup>®</sup>, our daily Morning Coffee With...<sup>®</sup>, and other Signature Programs.

The Nantucket Film Festival is supported by Showtime and The White Elephant Nantucket Island as Major Sponsors; A&E IndieFilms, Brand Content, and Delta Air Lines as Signature Sponsors; Citi, Ketel One Botanical, Cape Air, Nantucket Airlines, Nantucket Bank, Fleur de Prairie, Travel+Leisure as Producing Sponsors; and Lifetime, The Beachside on Nantucket, Kronenbourg, Josh Cellars, Joseph Carr, Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket Today, Harborview Nantucket, SAGIndie, Cinesend, Montana Film Office, Polar Beverages, The Summer House, Vulcan Productions, WGA East, and Withoutabox as Contributing Sponsors.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nantucket Film Festival will take place June 20-25. For further information on the 2018 Nantucket Film Festival, please visit [www.nantucketfilmfestival.org](http://www.nantucketfilmfestival.org).

###

Press Contacts

– **FRANK PR** –

Stephanie Davidson | [stephanie@frankpublicity.com](mailto:stephanie@frankpublicity.com) | 646-861-0843

Clare Anne Darragh | [Clareanne@frankpublicity.com](mailto:Clareanne@frankpublicity.com) | 646-861-0843

Lina Plath | [Lina@frankpublicity.com](mailto:Lina@frankpublicity.com) | 646-861-0843