

**Embargoed Until 12:00PM ET / 9:00AM PT on Monday, March 8th, 2021**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL IN COLLABORATION WITH  
SCREENWRITERS COLONY ANNOUNCES  
SCREENWRITER SESSIONS LIVE COURSE, APRIL 6-30,  
FEATURING CHARLIE KAUFMAN, NANCY MEYERS,  
STELLA MEGHIE, AND LESLIE DIXON**

**NFF EXPANDS TO 11 DAYS FOR ITS 26TH EDITION,  
HYBRID FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE JUNE 17-28**

[IMAGES AVAILABLE HERE](#)

**Nantucket, MA (March 8, 2021)**—The Nantucket Film Festival and Screenwriters Colony announced today the launch of a new initiative: **Screenwriter Sessions Live: Craft and Conversation**. This intensive online series for emerging screenwriters will feature **Charlie Kaufman, Nancy Meyers, Stella Meghie**, and **Leslie Dixon**, and will take place over five sessions, April 6-30, 2021. NFF also announced that for the first time ever, its annual summer festival will take place over 11 days, from June 17-28, 2021, and in a hybrid format.

Since its inception, NFF's mission has been to celebrate the art of screenwriting and storytelling. Developed in collaboration with longtime partner organization, **Screenwriters Colony**, Screenwriter Sessions Live is an online course for emerging screenwriters to learn directly from some of the most accomplished screenwriters working today: Charlie Kaufman (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*), Nancy Meyers (*Something's Gotta Give*), Stella Meghie (*The Photograph*), and Leslie Dixon (*Mrs. Doubtfire*). Over five sessions—live, not pre-recorded—these screenwriter greats will share insights on storytelling, craft, and the industry through a mixture of lecture and conversation. Topics will be wide ranging, from dialogue and structure to how to generate and develop your best ideas. **Kaitlin Fontana** (producer, *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee* and host of the Writers Guild of America, East podcast, *On Screenwriting*) will host the series.

"Screenwriters Colony and NFF have collaborated on programs championing screenwriters for many years. Together we are excited to present this new opportunity for aspiring storytellers to learn directly from some of the greatest screenwriters of our time, in a uniquely intimate and intensive format," said Lydia Cavallo Zasa, Director of Screenwriters Colony.

Screenwriter Sessions Live: Craft and Conversation is intended for 20-25 early-career fiction feature screenwriters who will benefit from an intensive immersion into the craft of screenwriting. To ensure that the course is made up of an inclusive and diverse cohort of writers, a minimum of 10 spaces have been reserved for screenwriters from traditionally underrepresented communities, thanks to the generous support of Cindy and Evan Jones. Participants for these spaces will be nominated by film industry and arts organizations, including Writers Guild of America, East and National Hispanic Foundation of the Arts, among others.

Enrollment in Screenwriter Sessions Live begins March 8. More information, including cost, dates, and FAQ, may be found at:

[www.nantucketfilmfestival.org/programs/screenwriterssessions](http://www.nantucketfilmfestival.org/programs/screenwriterssessions)

The Nantucket Film Festival also revealed today that for the first time since its inception, its annual festival will expand from six to eleven days and will be presented in a hybrid format. The 26th annual NFF will take place June 17-28, 2021 and will feature a robust program of **online screenings**, as well as **drive-in screenings** and **intimate garden screenings and conversations** (all in-person gatherings are being planned in compliance with local and state public safety guidelines). More details about the Festival's plans will be made available in the coming weeks, prior to the announcement of the full program, schedule, and venues on May 6, 2021.

"We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the 26th festival in celebration of our island community, the craft of our filmmakers, and the magic of storytelling," said Mystelle Brabbee, Executive Director of the Nantucket Film Festival. "We are also absolutely thrilled to expand our programming in partnership with Screenwriters Colony to offer these wonderful sessions with such incredible storytellers like Charlie, Nancy, Stella and Leslie."

Festival Passes will go on sale April 1, Streaming Passes will be available beginning May 6, and individual tickets will go on sale June 4.

#### **About Nantucket Film Festival:**

For over 25 years, the Nantucket Film Festival has championed emerging screenwriters, including Benh Zeitlin and Lucy Alibar (*Beasts of the Southern Wild*), Lake Bell (*In a World...*), Leslye Headland (*Sleeping with Other People*), and Siân Heder (*CODA*), among many others, and has celebrated notable screenwriters including Ruth Praver Jhabvala, Steve Martin, Judd Apatow, and Aaron Sorkin with our Screenwriters Tribute.

Screenwriter Sessions speakers Charlie Kaufman, Nancy Meyers, and Leslie Dixon have also been previous NFF Screenwriter Tribute honorees.

**About Screenwriters Colony:**

Screenwriters Colony is dedicated to discovering and nurturing exceptional storytellers for the screen. For 20 years, its programs have provided writers with the dedicated time and space of an artist's retreat, combined with intimate mentorship and workshops. Through supporting talented new voices, the organization aims to help contribute groundbreaking, impactful stories to audiences around the world.

The Nantucket Film Festival is supported by **The White Elephant Nantucket Island, Bank of America, A&E IndieFilms, Polar Beverages, and Writers Guild of America, East.**

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