

NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL



june 25-30, 2025





30 years of storytelling magic

Bank of America believes in the power of the arts to enrich lives and bring communities together. Together, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Nantucket Film Festival and the amazing work of filmmakers whose narratives illuminate new perspectives. Thank you to our partners at the Nantucket Film Festival, who are enriching the vast diversity of the human experience.



© 2025 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. MAP7895514 | AD-04-25-0106



PRESENTING SPONSOR



MAJOR SPONSOR



SIGNATURE SPONSORS



PRODUCING SPONSORS



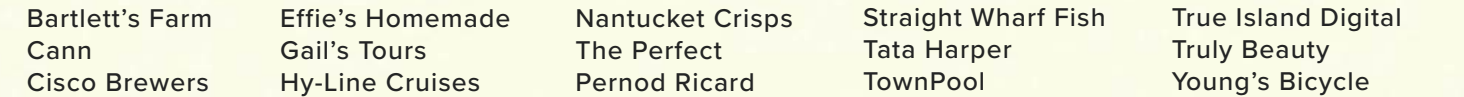
CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS



MEDIA PARTNERS



TRADE SPONSORS



PROGRAM PARTNERS



GRANT SUPPORT





LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION.

PROUD SPONSOR OF NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL.

We'd love to host you at our White Elephant flagship Hotel and Garden Cottages, as well as at our Inn and Residences. Book an unforgettable vacation this season with the signature service and complimentary amenities we're known for, including dining with us harborside at the newly renovated Brant Point Grill Deck.



Call (508) 228-2500 to book,
or visit WhiteElephantNantucket.com
50 Easton St, Nantucket, MA 02554

letter from the **executive director**

WELCOME TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF NFF

In the fall of 1996, I called Jill and Jonathan Burkhart to see if I could help with their new venture: the Nantucket Film Festival. From the very beginning, the mission was clear—celebrating screenwriting and storytelling, wrapped in the magic of this island. By January 1997, I was programming the Festival, watching 700+ films that year. Five years later, I became Artistic Director. Twelve years after that, Executive Director.

Since then, we've carved out every creative corner we could imagine—improv nights, all-star comedy roundtables, virtual conversations with screenwriting legends, and intimate garden gatherings. What began as a shared love of the script has become a vibrant, ever-evolving celebration of storytelling in all its forms.

People often ask: how have festivals changed—and why do they matter? The answer is simple. There's something sacred about sitting in the dark with strangers, watching a story unfold—unscrollable, uninterrupted. Festivals deepen that experience through conversation, curation, and connection. You're not just watching a movie—you're entering a moment. These spaces slow us down in a fractured world and remind us how much we still need to gather.

This milestone is a true team effort—a dedicated staff of 50, a Board of Directors and Advisors 40 strong, and more than 100 generous volunteers make this festival possible. Their heart, hustle, and creativity shape every detail of what you experience here.

The spirit of this Festival also lives in the familiar faces who return year after year—community partners who helped build this from the ground up, our homestay patrons and of course, you—our audience. You've shown up, embraced new voices, and reminded us why we do this work.

Thank you for being part of this moment. Thirty Years of Storytelling—and we're just getting started.

With gratitude,
Mystelle Brabbée



letters from the board



It's hard to believe it was 30 years ago that the very first NFF unspooled. When we started this endeavor, we didn't have festival experience ourselves, but what we did have was our love for Nantucket and our love of film and storytelling. The concept of putting these things together felt right and we laid the groundwork to bring it to life. From the moment people started lining up around the block for the very first Morning Coffee at Cambridge St. Cafe, we realized we had created something meaningful.

Since then NFF has evolved, has become more polished (and organized!), and is still a beloved annual event—not just on the island, but nationwide. We couldn't be more proud that NFF continues to thrive and entertain audiences.

We are grateful to Mystelle for her dedication and stewardship, the amazing NFF team that works tirelessly, our Boards for always standing by NFF, but most of all we thank Nantucket, and its residents, for supporting this crazy venture all these years. Bringing people together and sharing our stories is what it's all about.

See you at the movies!

Jill & Jonathan Burkhardt
Founders



On behalf of the Nantucket Film Festival Board, welcome and thank you for playing a role in our 30th anniversary celebration, as we shine a light on the role of screenwriters and compelling storytelling! We are excited to entertain you and provoke thoughtful discussion with this year's lineup of narrative films and documentaries.

The film festival was the lighthouse that led our family back to Nantucket, which we now call home. My husband and I enjoyed our honeymoon on the island in 1980, and we started attending the Festival in the nineties as guests of Bob and Suzanne Wright, when Chris worked at NBCUniversal. We were dazzled by the stars who showed up, and meeting entertainment icons like Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller. It was pure magic to be on this spectacular spit of land, 30 miles out to sea, and slip into screenings that transported us to exciting new places.

We were hooked. Within a few years, our sons were working as volunteers at the Festival, stuffing swag bags and managing screening lines. That kindled a deeper love of screenwriting, and today Michael and Thomas are independent filmmakers in Los Angeles.

Chris and I were proud to join the NFF Board in 2010, and we believe the Festival plays an important role in the cultural life of this beautiful island. Each year, we revel in the enthusiastic crowds that line up at The Dreamland. We love eavesdropping on conversations at The Hub, as people grab a coffee between films. And we count our lucky stars as we hear from great screenwriters at the 'Sconset Casino and panels around town.

Like a great film, the Festival comes together each year through the hard work of an amazing staff and dozens of volunteers led by Executive Director Mystelle Brabbée since 2012. It is the product of a generous and loyal Board of Directors. But it couldn't happen without you—the audience—who delight with anticipation when the lights dim, the whale's tail emerges in the opening animation, the sound of the surf combines with the staccato of a movie projector, and the magic begins.

Please share your Nantucket Film Festival memories as we see each other this week, and enjoy the movies!

Kathleen Matthews
NFF Board Chair



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

June 2025

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll and I would like to welcome you to the 30th Annual Nantucket Film Festival (NFF).

Founded in 1996, the Nantucket Film Festival has been a staple of the island's culture, drawing in spectators from around the world to celebrate their love of film and community. This year, the NFF is celebrating its 30th anniversary of being a premier destination for film festivals and has dedicated itself to honoring the vast diversity of human experience through screenwriting and storytelling.

We encourage guests to take advantage of Nantucket's beauty and to take part in the many events that the film festival has to offer. We commend the organizers on this important anniversary and congratulate this year's NFF award winners for their creative storytelling.

Lieutenant Governor Driscoll and I are thrilled to be in support of the Nantucket Film Festival, and we extend our best wishes to all in attendance.

Sincerely,

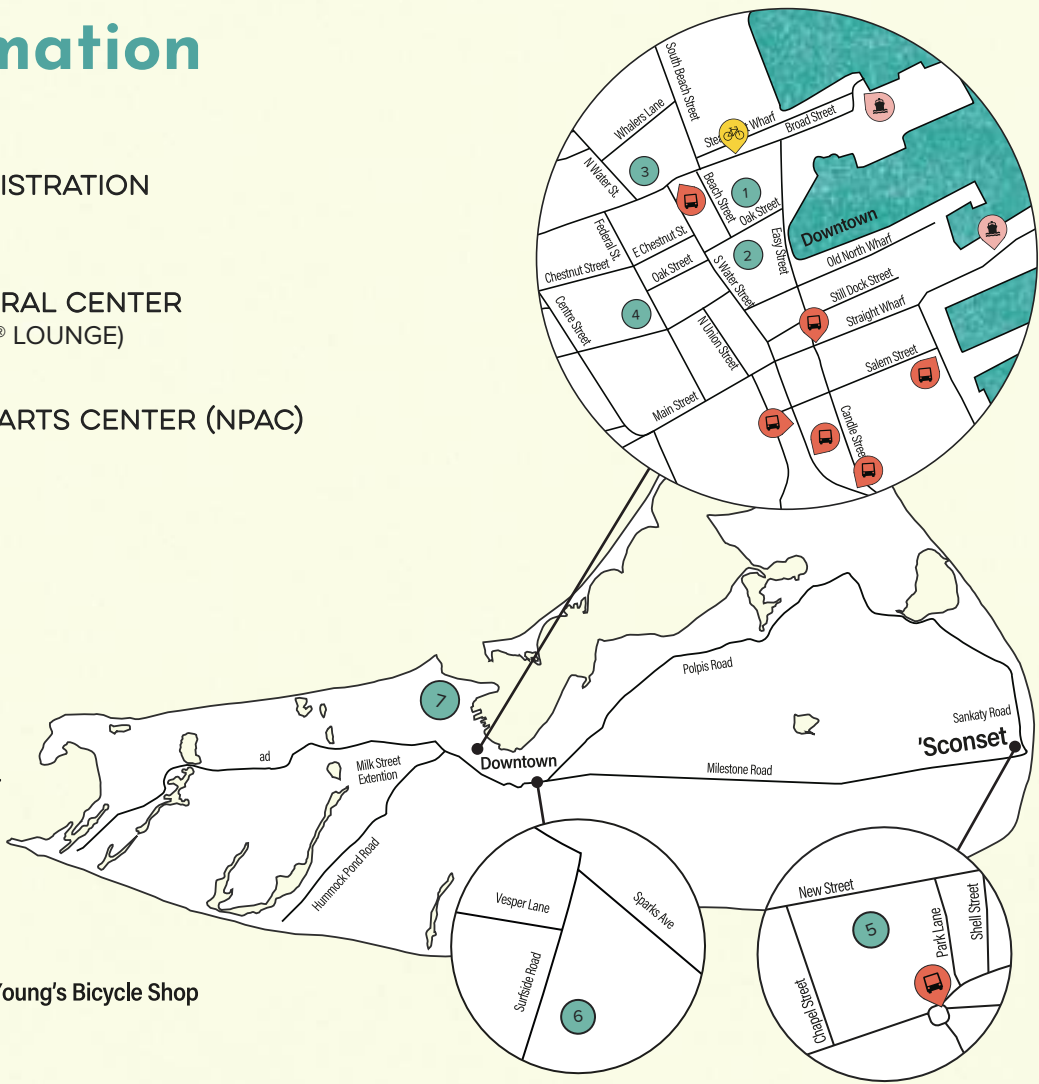
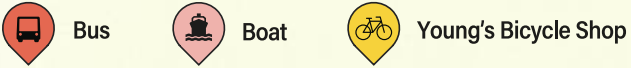
MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

festival information

VENUES & MAP

- 1. NFF HEADQUARTERS & REGISTRATION
Douglas Elliman Real Estate Office
12 Oak Street - TOWN
- 2. DREAMLAND FILM & CULTURAL CENTER
(MAIN, STUDIO, BANK OF AMERICA® LOUNGE)
17 Main Street - TOWN
- 3. NANTUCKET PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NPAC)
5 N Water Street - TOWN
- 4. FARAWAY
(MORNING COFFEE WITH...®)
29 Centre Street - TOWN
- 5. 'SCONSET CASINO
(LATE NIGHT STORYTELLING, SCREENWRITERS TRIBUTE)
10 New Street - SIASCONSET
- 6. NANTUCKET HIGH SCHOOL
(COMEDY ROUNDTABLE)
10 Surfside Road - MID-ISLAND
- 7. FLIPPING THE SCRIPT
73 Hulbert Avenue - BRANT POINT



POLICIES & FAQ

REGISTRATION
Passes and packages will be available for pickup at Registration starting June 23. Vouchers will be provided for unselected tickets and may be redeemed at any box office for any applicable ticket, if space is available. Vouchers may be used on rush lines for films, Morning Coffee With...®, and select talks and events.

ADMISSION POLICY
All attendees must be present at the venue 15 minutes prior to program's scheduled start time. We reserve the right to sell any empty seats after that time. Preferred entry for ticketless access pass-holders expires 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time; at that time patrons will join the general entry ticket holder line. All passes and tickets are single entry only. All passes are non-transferable and must be presented at entry.

WILL CALL
Starting June 18, tickets purchased online or by phone are available for pickup at the Box Office at 12 Oak Street. You may also pick up your tickets the day of; venue box offices will open approximately 30 minutes before the first scheduled program.

RAIN POLICY
Attendees will be notified in advance in the unlikely event of cancellation or venue change due to severe weather conditions.

RUSH LINES
For screenings/events with no more advance tickets available, you may be able to purchase RUSH TICKETS at the venue based on availability. A rush line will form approximately 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Admission is first come, first served. All sales are final, with a limit of 1 ticket per person. No discounts are applicable.

HELP DESK SUPPORT
Please visit nantucketfilmfestival.org/attend/ for the answers to all your questions about attending this year's Festival. If you need more assistance please email us at helpdesk@nantucketfilmfestival.org or call us at (646) 480-1900. We will answer all your questions as soon as possible, but please expect up to a 4-hour delay in response outside of our business hours.

purchase tickets

IN PERSON
NFF Headquarters & Main Box Office
Douglas Elliman Real Estate Office
12 Oak Street

BOX OFFICE HOURS
June 18 - 24..... 12 PM - 6 PM
June 25-28..... 10 AM - 6 PM
June 29..... 10 AM - 3 PM
June 30..... CLOSED

BY PHONE
(646) 480 - 1900

ONLINE
nantucketfilmfestival.org

PRICES

GENERAL FILM:

\$20

(ACK Discount: \$10*)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Opening Night, Closing Night, Centerpiece

\$38

(ACK Discount: \$28*)

SPOTLIGHT & OPENING DAY FAMILY FILM:

\$30

(ACK Discount: \$20*)

MORNING COFFEE WITH...®:
Includes complimentary refreshments

\$30

(ACK Discount: \$15*)

DEEP DIVE TALKS:
Includes complimentary refreshments

\$35

(ACK Discount: \$25*)

COMEDY ROUNDTABLE & IN THEIR SHOES®:

\$75

LATE NIGHT STORYTELLING & GARDEN CONVERSATION:
Includes wine, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres

\$150

(ACK Discount: \$100*)

SCREENWRITERS TRIBUTE:
Includes wine, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres

\$250

(ACK Discount: \$150*)

PASSES

FOUNDER:

\$6,000

(70% Tax Deductible)

LEGACY:

\$3,500

(65% Tax Deductible)

PATRON:

\$1,850

(40% Tax Deductible)

PACKAGES

DISCOVERY PACKAGE:

\$750

ISLANDER PACKAGE:

\$180

ALUMNI PACKAGE:

\$120

*Applied Ticket Discounts - ACK Resident Discount (Only applied to 1 ticket per ID). Discount is up to 50% off for Nantucket residents on individual tickets. Each resident must provide a valid Nantucket-issued driver's license at the time of purchase. NOTE: Discounted admissions are not available for online, phone, or rush ticket purchases. Discounts are offered exclusively in person at box office locations. Refunds will not be applied retroactively.

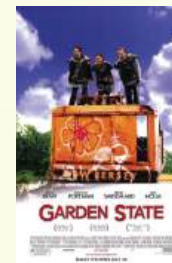
30 years of storytelling... A LOOK BACK



Decade One (1996-2005)



Decade Two (2006-2015)





Decade Three (2016-2025)



letter from the programmers

We are thrilled to welcome you to our 30th anniversary Festival, a milestone occasion marking three decades of celebrating the art of screenwriting and the power of storytelling. Over the course of six days, NFF will showcase an exciting and diverse lineup of more than 50 feature films and shorts, representing stories from 20 countries, from icy Norway to the mountains of Iran and beyond. Each film offers a unique window into the lives, dreams, and challenges of people around the world. This year's program is a vibrant tapestry of voices—local and global, emerging and established—united by a shared commitment to bold, urgent, and profoundly human storytelling.

The Festival kicks off with a Disney and Pixar animated feature, our **Opening Day Family Film**—*Elio*, about the cosmic misadventures of a space fanatic with an active imagination. We then open our Festival with two Audience Award winners from the 2025 Sundance Film Festival as our dual **Opening Night Films**: the darkly clever narrative feature *Twinless*, a story of unlikely friendship and connection, with an unexpected twist; and *Prime Minister*, an intimate documentary portrait of New Zealand's former head of state Jacinda Ardern as she redefines leadership on the global stage. Our **Centerpiece Film**, *Jaws @ 50: The Definitive Inside Story*, delves into the creation and enduring legacy of a cinematic classic, while our rousing **Closing Night Film**, *Speak.*, follows ambitious young orators as they find their voices on the ultimate stage.

We're also excited to present this year's **Spotlight Films**, which we expect will win over audiences with their heart and skillful storytelling: *DJ Ahmet*, *Tow*, and *Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore*. Our special programming strands also return: **Green Carpet Cinema**, which showcases films about the environment, includes the documentary feature *Middletown* and the shorts *Last Days on Lake Trinity*, *Seaweed Stories*, and *Snow Bear*; while **NextGen**, made by the next generation of filmmakers for the next generation of viewers, includes the features *East of Wall*, *Oh, Hi!*, *Sunfish (& Other Stories on Green Lake)*, and *Twinless*.

As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we are reminded of the enduring power of stories to entertain, provoke thought, and bring us together. Whether you are a longtime festivalgoer or joining us for the first time, we invite you to immerse yourself in this year's extraordinary program. Let these films move you, challenge you, and inspire you—on Nantucket and wherever life takes you.

Thank you for being part of our community and for supporting the storytellers who help us see the world, and each other, with new eyes.

Enjoy the Festival!
Basil Tsiokos, Anita Raswant, and Spencer Hillman





OPENING NIGHT NARRATIVE FILM 

TWINLESS

USA / 100 MIN / NARRATIVE

This darkly comedic drama centers on the unlikely, intense friendship that develops between two men who meet in a support group for those grieving the loss of their twins. Written, directed, and produced by James Sweeney, who also stars alongside a remarkable Dylan O’Brien, the film deftly balances witty humor with palpable emotion. Sweeney’s clever, nuanced script captures the awkwardness, vulnerability, and unexpected intimacy of their connection, while both leads deliver impressive, deeply layered performances that vividly bring their characters’ grief and desires to life. Adding further depth, Lauren Graham and Aisling Franciosi contribute memorable supporting roles—Graham as a mother navigating complex family dynamics, and Franciosi as Marcie, an unexpectedly perceptive receptionist whose presence adds both warmth and intrigue. As the bond between the two men deepens, secrets surface, challenging perceptions of identity, love, and loss. With a keen eye for tone and character, *Twinless* blends black comedy and psychological thriller elements, creating a compelling, unpredictable narrative that unfolds with striking originality and emotional intensity as it explores the complexities of human connection and the ways we cope with grief. *Winner: US Dramatic Competition Audience Award & Special Jury Award: Acting, 2025 Sundance Film Festival.*

Writer/Director/Producer: James Sweeney • **Producer:** David Permut • **Cast:** James Sweeney, Dylan O’Brien, Lauren Graham, Aisling Franciosi, Chris Perfetti

6/25, 8:00PM, DREAMLAND MAIN | 6/27, 7:00PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO



OPENING NIGHT DOCUMENTARY FILM

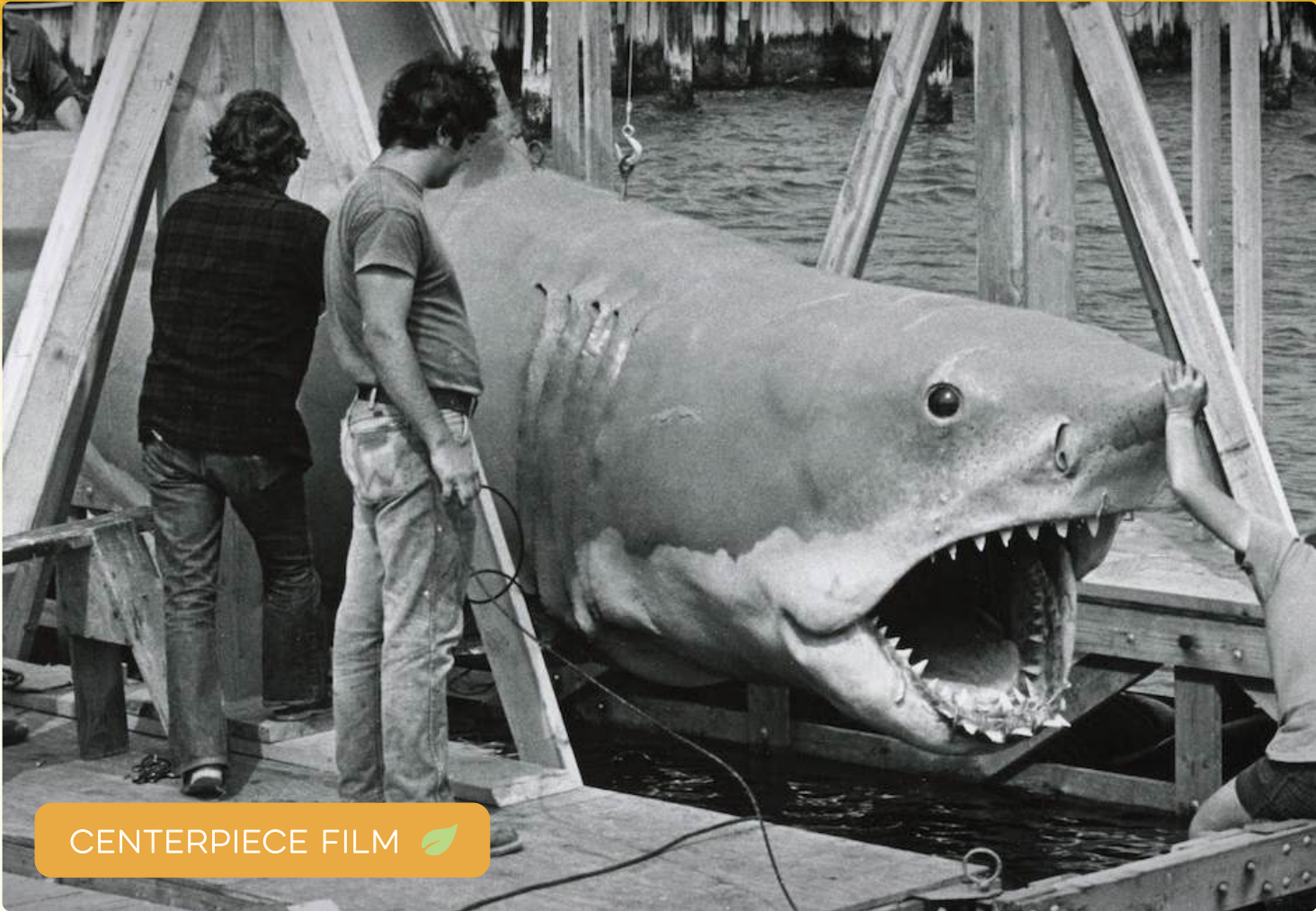
PRIME MINISTER

USA / 102 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

Lindsay Utz and Michelle Walshe’s inspiring documentary offers an intimate and rousing portrait of Jacinda Ardern’s extraordinary tenure as New Zealand’s prime minister from 2017 to 2023. Through a compelling mix of archival footage, personal home videos, and candid audio recordings, their film chronicles her rise to power amid unprecedented crises, including the Christchurch mosque shootings, the White Island eruption, and the global COVID-19 pandemic. Highlighting Ardern’s empathetic yet resolute approach to governance and emphasizing her commitment to kindness, resilience, and social justice, the documentary captures the challenges she faced as a young leader and working mother—the second head of state in modern history to give birth while in office. In doing so, it shows her determination to lead with humanity and common sense. With a dynamic storytelling approach that blends public moments with private reflections, *Prime Minister* is a stirring celebration of compassionate stewardship and courage, and serves as a powerful reminder of the impact one leader can have in uniting a nation and inspiring hope in turbulent times. *Winner: World Cinema Documentary Competition Audience Award, 2025 Sundance Film Festival.*

Directors: Michelle Walshe, Lindsay Utz • **Producers:** Cass Avery, Leon Kirkbeck, Gigi Pritzker, Rachel Shane, Katie Peck, Clarke Gayford

6/25, 4:30PM, DREAMLAND MAIN | 6/28, 4:00PM, DREAMLAND MAIN



CENTERPIECE FILM

JAWS @ 50: THE DEFINITIVE INSIDE STORY

USA / 88 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

Marking the momentous 50th anniversary of the cinematic phenomenon that thrilled audiences worldwide, Steven Spielberg offers an unprecedented glimpse into the captivating genesis and enduring legacy of *Jaws*. This insightful exploration delves into the journey of *Jaws*, tracing its origins from Peter Benchley's gripping novel to Spielberg's masterful film adaptation. The impact of *Jaws* on popular culture, the art of filmmaking, and even the critical field of shark conservation remains profound half a century later. The film features compelling interviews with Hollywood's most influential directors, from Steven Soderbergh to Jordan Peele, who speak to the film's lasting influence, alongside insights from leading shark scientists, who address the complex relationship between humans and these often-misunderstood creatures. Packed with never-before-seen footage from Spielberg's personal archive and jaw-dropping behind-the-scenes stories, *JAWS @ 50* is a thrilling love letter to cinema.

See page 37 for *JAWS – 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION*

Director: Laurent Bouzereau • **Producers:** Laurent Bouzereau, Markus Keith, Darryl Frank, Justin Falvey, Wendy Benchley, Laura Bowling, Tracy Rudolph Jackson, Ted Duvall

6/28, 7:00PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO



CLOSING NIGHT FILM

SPEAK.

USA / 104 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

What does it take to stand out in a sea of voices? Filmmakers Jennifer Tiexiera and Guy Mossman take audiences behind the scenes of the National Speech and Debate Association's prestigious national tournament, where the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, Josh Gad, and Brad Pitt once competed. In this rousing documentary, five gifted high school students—Esther, Mfaz, Sam, Noor, and Noah—spend a year crafting and perfecting original speeches on thought-provoking topics, including school shootings, disability advocacy, and assisted suicide. As they prepare to face one of the world's largest academic competitions, the stakes are high—not just for winning but for sparking meaningful dialogue in front of thousands of viewers. While charting the students' road to nationals, the film also explores their dynamic and diverse personal lives, deftly balancing humor with poignant reflections on youth navigating an uncertain future. With its compelling blend of heartfelt storytelling and sharp social commentary, this coming-of-age documentary celebrates the power of speech to inspire change while showcasing the creativity and ambition of tomorrow's next generation of leaders, poised to shape the world through the power of words.

Directors: Jennifer Tiexiera, Guy Mossman • **Producers:** Pamela Griner, Guy Mossman, Jennifer Tiexiera

6/29, 4:30PM, DREAMLAND MAIN | 6/30, 10:30AM, DREAMLAND STUDIO



ELIO

USA / 98 MIN / ANIMATED

For centuries, people have called out to the universe looking for answers—in Disney and Pixar’s all-new feature film *Elio* the universe calls back! The cosmic misadventure introduces Elio, a space fanatic with an active imagination and a huge alien obsession. So, when he’s beamed up to the Communiverse, an interplanetary organization with representatives from galaxies far and wide, Elio’s all in for the epic undertaking. Mistakenly identified as Earth’s leader, Elio must form new bonds with eccentric alien lifeforms, navigate a crisis of intergalactic proportions, and somehow discover who and where he is truly meant to be.

Writer: Adrian Molina • **Directors:** Madeline Sharafian, Domee Shi, Adrian Molina • **Producer:** Mary Alice Drumm • **Cast:** Yonas Kibreab, Zoe Saldaña, Remy Edgerly, Brad Garrett, Jameela Jamil, Shirley Henderson, America Ferrera

6/25, 10:30AM, DREAMLAND MAIN | 6/29, 10:30AM, DREAMLAND MAIN

DELTA'S ELEVATING PREMIUM BUSINESS TRAVEL WITH A PRIVATE AVIATION PARTNERSHIP.

A photograph of a Delta Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft and a Delta private jet, a Bombardier CRJ-900, parked on a tarmac. The Delta logo is visible on the side of the 737. The private jet has "WHEELS UP" and "N900UP" written on its side. The background shows a cloudy sky.

 **DELTA** | **WHEELS UP**



DJ AHMET

NORTH MACEDONIA/CZECH REPUBLIC/
SERBIA/CROATIA / 99 MIN / NARRATIVE

In a remote North Macedonian village, 15-year-old Ahmet finds solace in music amidst the strictures of tradition and family expectations. Navigating a forbidden first love, he turns to electronic beats as a means of escape, hoping to dazzle the girl of his affections at the village festival with the help of his adorable younger brother. This charming and beautifully lensed coming-of-age tale, set against a vibrant backdrop of cultural contrasts, celebrates the unifying power of music and demonstrates the courage it takes to defy convention. *Winner: World Cinema Dramatic Competition Audience Award, Special Jury Award for Creative Vision, 2025 Sundance Film Festival.*

Writer/Director: Georgi M. Unkovski • **Producers:** Ivan Unkovski, Ivana Shekutkoska • **Cast:** Arif Jakup, Agush Agushev, Dora Akan Zlatanova, Aksel Mehmet, Selpin Kerim

6/27, 7:30PM, DREAMLAND MAIN
6/29, 1:45PM, NPAC



TOW

USA / 105 MIN / NARRATIVE

Based on a true story, Stephanie Laing's uplifting underdog drama follows Amanda (Rose Byrne), an unhoused woman whose only refuge is her 1991 Toyota Corolla—until it's stolen, towed, and then held hostage for a staggering \$21,634. Facing impossible odds, Amanda launches a relentless legal battle against the system, refusing to be broken by bureaucracy or indifference. Byrne's performance is a standout, capturing Amanda's vulnerability and fierce determination, while Octavia Spencer, Ariana DeBose, Demi Lovato, and Simon Rex impress in key supporting roles. *Tow* is a powerful testament to resilience, justice, and the fight to reclaim dignity.

Writers: Jonathan Keasey, Brant Boivin, Annie Weisman
Director: Stephanie Laing • **Producers:** Brent Stiefel, Stephanie Laing, Samantha Nisenboim, Rose Byrne, Danyelle Foord • **Cast:** Rose Byrne, Octavia Spencer, Dominic Sessa, Ariana DeBose, Demi Lovato, Simon Rex

6/26, 10:00AM, DREAMLAND MAIN
6/28, 1:00PM, DREAMLAND MAIN



MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE

USA / 97 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

Born into a hearing family, Marlee Matlin overcame isolation and adversity before rising to fame with *Children of a Lesser God*, for which she became the first Deaf performer to win an Academy Award. With intimacy and care, director Shoshannah Stern—a Deaf filmmaker inspired by Matlin's groundbreaking career—captures the actress' reflections on her life in her own language of ASL. Blending archival footage with revealing conversations, Stern's affecting film explores Matlin's professional triumphs, personal struggles, and advocacy for accessibility and authentic representation, while candidly confronting the challenges that come when attempting to break barriers in Hollywood.

Director: Shoshannah Stern • **Producers:** Robyn Kopp, Justine Nagan, Bonni Cohen, Shoshannah Stern

6/26, 1:00PM, DREAMLAND MAIN
6/28, 4:30PM, NPAC

GREEN CARPET CINEMA

NFF's Green Carpet Cinema Program returns for the fourth year. As Nantucket faces the serious impact of rising sea levels and powerful coastal storms driven by climate change, NFF is committed to being an active participant in the conversation.

GREEN CARPET CINEMA FILMS ARE MARKED WITH 

- JAWS @ 50: THE DEFINITIVE INSIDE STORY
- MIDDLETOWN
- LAST DAYS ON LAKE TRINITY
- SEAWEED STORIES
- SNOW BEAR
- FUTURE FEELING

SUPPORTED BY 

NEXTGEN

Our NextGen Program presents four films we're excited to introduce to the NFF audience, and especially—but not exclusively!—to Millennial and Gen Z viewers.

NEXTGEN FILMS ARE MARKED WITH 

- TWINLESS
- EAST OF WALL
- OH, HI!
- SUNFISH
(& OTHER STORIES ON GREEN LAKE)

feature films



ANDRÉ IS AN IDIOT

USA / 88 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

When eccentric ad exec André learns he’s dying of colon cancer, he faces it with the same irreverent humor and wild creativity he’s had his entire life—and decides to make an unconventional documentary about his journey. Featuring inappropriate anecdotes, stop-motion animation, and a lively score, this singular film delivers both humorous and profound reflections on life’s fragility, while also challenging societal taboos around death and dying with wit and grace. *Winner: US Documentary Competition Audience Award & Jonathan Oppenheim Editing Award, 2025 Sundance Film Festival.*

Director: Tony Benna • **Producers:** André Ricciardi, Tory Tunnell, Joshua Altman, Stelio Kitrilakis, Ben Cotner

6/26, 4:30PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO | 6/28, 10AM, NPAC



THE BALTIMORONS

USA / 100 MIN / NARRATIVE

Jay Duplass returns to the big screen in this Baltimore-set comedy. A chipped tooth on Christmas Eve sends Cliff, teetering on the fragile edge of newfound sobriety, spiraling into an unlikely and poignant escapade. His emergency savior (and dentist), Didi, is a woman whose life experiences and perspectives stand in stark contrast to his own. As they navigate the city together, the reasons for Cliff’s sobriety and the complexities of Didi’s life begin to surface, revealing vulnerabilities and unexpected common ground. *Winner: Narrative Spotlight Audience Award, 2025 SXSW Film Festival.*

Writers: Jay Duplass, Michael Strassner • **Director:** Jay Duplass
Producers: David Bonnet Jr., Michael Strassner, Drew Langer
Cast: Michael Strassner, Liz Larsen, Olivia Luccardi

6/26, 4PM, DREAMLAND MAIN



THE DATING GAME

USA/UK/NORWAY / 88 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

In a country where eligible bachelors outnumber women by tens of millions, three single men join a weeklong dating program, hoping to find love. Guided by Hao, a charismatic coach who teaches “strategic deception,” they navigate the realities of modern romance shaped by the legacy of China’s one-child policy. Director Violet Du Feng infuses her film with vibrant visuals and incisive social critique, highlighting the contradictions of Hao’s advice through his marriage to a fellow coach with opposing views. The result is a funny and deeply human portrait of connection that resonates across cultures.

Director: Violet Du Feng • **Producers:** Joanna Natasegara, James Costa, Mette Cheng Munthe-Kaas, Violet Du Feng

6/25, 1:30PM, DREAMLAND MAIN | 6/27, 6:30PM, NPAC

DOCUMENTARY FILMS SPONSORED BY A&E INDIE FILMS



EAST OF WALL 🐾

USA / 97 MIN / NARRATIVE

After her husband’s death, fiercely independent horse trainer Tabatha struggles to keep her South Dakota ranch afloat while facing unresolved grief and financial uncertainty. Surrounded by her children and the wayward teens she’s taken in, Tabatha forges an unconventional family on society’s margins. Filmmaker Kate Beecroft blends real-life footage, TikTok videos, and dramatized scenes with both non-actors and professionals to craft a strikingly original portrait of resilience and chosen family in the modern American West. *Winner: NEXT Audience Award, 2025 Sundance Film Festival.*

Writer/Director: Kate Beecroft • **Producers:** Kate Beecroft, Lila Yacoub, Melanie Ramsayer, Shannon Moss • **Cast:** Tabatha Zimiga, Porshia Zimiga, Scoot McNairy, Jennifer Ehle

6/25, 4PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO



COEXISTENCE, MY ASS!

USA/France / 95 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

What happens when comedy becomes a tool for navigating one of the world’s most complex conflicts? This thought-provoking documentary follows Israeli comedian Noam Shuster-Eliassi as she channels her upbringing in the Oasis of Peace—an intentionally mixed Jewish-Palestinian village—into bold, sharply observed humor. Her one-woman show challenges both societal norms and the limits of traditional coexistence, revealing the power of laughter to spark difficult conversations in the face of deeply ingrained divisions. *Winner: Special Jury Award: Freedom of Expression, 2025 Sundance Film Festival.*

Director: Amber Fares • **Producers:** Rachel Leah Jones, Amber Fares, Valérie Montmartin

6/26, 8PM, NPAC



COME SEE ME IN THE GOOD LIGHT

USA / 104 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

Acclaimed poet laureate and spoken word icon Andrea Gibson has long been celebrated for their fearless writing on social justice and LGBTQ+ themes. Now, facing a terminal cancer diagnosis, Andrea and partner Megan Falley open their lives to director Ryan White’s deeply moving—and often disarmingly funny—portrait. Through intimate moments and Gibson’s powerful poetry, the film offers a universal reflection on life, love, and resilience, celebrating the beauty of living in the face of adversity and the transformative power of art. *Winner: Festival Favorite Award, 2025 Sundance Film Festival.*

Director: Ryan White • **Producers:** Jessica Hargrave, Ryan White, Tig Notaro, Stef Willen

6/27, 4:30PM, DREAMLAND MAIN



FANTASY LIFE

USA / 91 MIN / NARRATIVE

Sam experiences a disorienting panic attack that unexpectedly leads him to a new role: babysitting for Dianne, an actress and mother navigating a strained marriage. Over a summer, an unexpected connection forms between Sam and Dianne as they discover a comfortable understanding and shared experience of mental health hurdles. Matthew Shear’s directorial debut plunges the audience into the disquieting and often darkly humorous limbo of mental illness. *Winner: Narrative Feature Competition Audience Award & Special Jury Award for Performance, 2025 SXSW Film Festival.*

Writer/Director: Matthew Shear • **Producers:** Charlie Alderman, Chris Dodds, Philip Keefe, Amanda Peet, Emily McCann Lesser, David Bernon, Sam Slater • **Cast:** Amanda Peet, Matthew Shear, Alessandro Nivola, Judd Hirsch, Bob Balaban, Zosia Mamet

6/27, 10AM, DREAMLAND STUDIO
6/29, 7:30PM, DREAMLAND MAIN



FOLKTALES

USA/NORWAY / 106 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

Set against the breathtaking snowscapes of Arctic Norway, this uplifting documentary follows teenagers at an unconventional high school as they embark on a transformative journey. Through wilderness survival skills and dog-sledding, these young adults disconnect from the chaos of modern life to confront their insecurities and discover resilience. Artfully infusing Norse mythology within their storytelling, directors and past NFF honorees Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady masterfully capture the students’ experiences as they learn valuable lessons about trust and self-reliance on the edge of adulthood.

Directors/Producers: Heidi Ewing, Rachel Grady

6/27, 1:30PM, DREAMLAND MAIN | 6/29, 10:30AM, NPAC

feature films



FORGE

USA / 114 MIN / NARRATIVE

In her debut feature, Jing Ai Ng builds a dramatic clash of loyalty and truths in a dark comedy drama. Beneath the vibrant pulse of Miami’s art world, siblings Raymond and Coco Zhang orchestrate a lucrative deception with their flawless art forgeries. After an enigmatic millionaire strong-arms them into replicating masterpieces for his family’s esteemed collection, their carefully constructed reality starts to crack. As the shady underbelly of the art world is revealed, loyalties are tested and the stakes escalate, plunging all the players into increasing peril.

Writer/Director: Jing Ai Ng • **Producers:** Liz Daering-Glass, Gabrielle Cordero, Jing Ai Ng, Damian Bao • **Cast:** Kelly Marie Tran, Andie Ju, Brandon Soo Hoo, Edmund Donovan, Eva De Dominici, T.R. Knight

6/27, 10:30AM, DREAMLAND MAIN



IT’S NEVER OVER, JEFF BUCKLEY

USA / 106 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

Acclaimed documentarian Amy Berg’s evocative portrait of Jeff Buckley invites viewers—fans and newcomers alike—into the world of a musician whose life was as enigmatic as his voice was unforgettable. Through never-before-seen footage, intimate recordings, and candid accounts from friends, family, and collaborators, the film traces Buckley’s meteoric rise and tragic loss after releasing just one album before his untimely death in 1997. Exploring themes of love, artistic integrity, and identity, it captures the enduring impact of his brief career with emotional depth and striking honesty.

Director: Amy Berg • **Producers:** Amy Berg, Ryan Heller, Christine Connor, Mandy Chang, Jennie Bedusa, Matthew Roozen

6/25, 6:30PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO | 6/27, 10AM, NPAC



THE LIBRARIANS

USA / 92 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

Rows of quiet bookshelves become battlegrounds in this urgent, eye-opening documentary, as librarians in Texas, Florida, and beyond emerge as unlikely defenders of democracy. Director Kim A. Snyder follows these courageous stewards of knowledge as they risk careers and safety to resist sweeping book bans targeting marginalized communities. Exposing the coordinated campaigns behind censorship and the personal toll on those who stand against it, *The Librarians* serves as both a chronicle of our present culture wars and a rousing call to fierce action to protect our freedoms.

See page 41 for DEEP DIVE: THE LIBRARIANS

Director: Kim A. Snyder • **Producers:** Kim A. Snyder, Janique L. Robillard, Maria Cuomo Cole, Jana Edelbaum

6/29, 1:30PM, DREAMLAND MAIN



LONG DAY’S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT

UK/IRELAND / 109 MIN / NARRATIVE

A top-notch cast leads this film adaptation of Eugene O’Neill’s semi-autobiographical play of the same name. In an exploration of family dynamics under the weight of addiction, illness, and well-buried resentments, we see the Tyrone family through an unflinching lens as they battle personal demons. The searing drama unfolds over one single day as resentments come to the surface and tension permeates the house. Powerhouse performances from Jessica Lange and Ed Harris make this a must-see film that leaves a lasting impression.

Writers: David Lindsay-Abaire, Eugene O’Neill • **Director:** Jonathan Kent • **Producers:** Bill Kenwright, Gabrielle Tana, Gleb Fetisov, Redmond Morris • **Cast:** Jessica Lange, Ed Harris, Ben Foster, Colin Morgan

6/25, 1PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO | 6/28, 7PM, NPAC



LOST & FOUND IN CLEVELAND

USA / 116 MIN / NARRATIVE

Set against the backdrop of the post-industrial American Dream in the heart of the Midwest, this film offers a poignant slice of life, unfolding over a single day. When America’s beloved televised antiques appraisal show rolls into Cleveland, transformative events are set into motion as the individual journeys of five disparate souls unexpectedly converge. In their directorial debut, Marisa Guterman and Keith Gerchak expertly bring the warmth of the heartland to the big screen in a delightful blend of quirky charm and whimsical spirit.

Writers/Directors/Producers: Marisa Guterman, Keith Gerchak • **Cast:** Dennis Haysbert, June Squibb, Stacy Keach, Martin Sheen

6/29, 10AM, DREAMLAND STUDIO



MEET THE BARBARIANS

FRANCE / 102 MIN / NARRATIVE

Julie Delpy directs and stars in this sharp, funny satire about a quaint French village whose residents—motivated as much by government subsidies as by goodwill—eagerly agree to host refugees fleeing the ravages of war. When a Syrian family arrives instead of the expected Ukrainians, chaos erupts as the villagers’ assumptions and prejudices are exposed. Delpy’s storytelling skewers both reactionary and progressive attitudes, while the newcomers, carrying their own harrowing past, defy stereotypes as they upend small-town routines in this crowd-pleasing comedy.

Writers: Julie Delpy, Matthieu Rumani • **Director:** Julie Delpy • **Producer:** Michael Gentile • **Cast:** Julie Delpy, Sandrine Kiberlain, Laurent Lafitte, India Hair, Jean-Charles Clichet, Rita Hayek

6/28, 7:30PM, DREAMLAND MAIN

DOCUMENTARY FILMS SPONSORED BY **A&E INDIE FILMS**



MAGIC HOUR

USA / 90 MIN / NARRATIVE

Seeking refuge from the familiar and the expected, Erin and Charlie embark on a journey to the stark beauty of Joshua Tree. The arid desert landscape forces them to confront the core of their relationship, facing unforeseen obstacles and wrestling with shifting dynamics. While Erin struggles with her inner turmoil, Charlie’s patience is tested, and his sunny disposition starts to crack. Directing from a script she co-wrote with Mark Duplass, Katie Aselton beautifully captures the vast emptiness and raw intensity of a couple navigating uncharted territory.

Writers: Mark Duplass, Katie Aselton • **Director:** Katie Aselton • **Producer:** Emily A. Neumann • **Cast:** Daveed Diggs, Katie Aselton, Brad Garrett, Susan Sullivan

6/26, 12:30PM, NPAC | 6/28, 3:30PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO



MIDDLETOWN

USA / 104 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

In the early 1990s, inspired by their unconventional teacher, high school students in upstate New York launched a documentary investigation that uncovered toxic pollution, organized crime, and political corruption in their community. Thirty years later, filmmakers Jesse Moss and Amanda McBaine (*Boys State*, NFF 2020) revisit this unlikely but true story, reuniting the students with their mentor and blending archival material with present-day reflections on their transformative experience. The result is a stirring tribute to civic engagement, investigative journalism, and the lasting impact of great teachers.

Directors: Jesse Moss, Amanda McBaine • **Producers:** Teddy Leifer, Florrie Priest, Jesse Moss, Amanda McBaine, Danny Breen

6/26, 10:30AM, DREAMLAND STUDIO
6/28, 12:30PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO

feature films



MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN

DENMARK/CZECH REPUBLIC / 90 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

Pasha, a nonconformist teacher, is tasked with filming his provincial Russian school’s various activities, uniquely positioning him to unobtrusively document the chilling militarization of education following Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine. As patriotic performances and battlefield training replace traditional learning and propaganda is used to turn students into ideological recruits, his candid footage sheds light on the impossible ethical dilemmas faced by ordinary citizens under authoritarian rule. *Winner: World Cinema Documentary Competition Special Jury Award, 2025 Sundance Film Festival.*

Directors: David Borenstein, Pavel Talankin • **Producer:** Helle Faber

6/26, 5:30PM, NPAC



NOBU

USA / 110 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

In an exploration of culinary legend Nobuyuki Matsuhisa’s empire, we see the intimate side of a man who has redefined global gastronomy. This cinéma vérité film, helmed by Matt Tyrnauer, offers a deep and sweeping view of Nobu’s remarkable journey, from his origins in Japan to his ascent to global prominence—a challenging odyssey marked by significant hurdles. Through exclusive access to Nobu himself, his vast international enterprise, and the insights of his closest collaborators, friends, and renowned admirers, the film unveils the extraordinary story behind the iconic name.

Director: Matt Tyrnauer • **Producers:** Matt Tyrnauer, Corey Reeser, Gianni Nunnari, Simon Horsman, Jeffrey Soros, Charlie Cohen, Stuart Ford, Andrea Lewis, Graham High

6/28, 1PM, NPAC



OH, HI! 🦋

USA / 94 MIN / NARRATIVE

A young couple’s romantic weekend getaway quickly spirals into chaos in this dark comedy. When a playful moment turns serious, and miscommunication leads to panic, Iris (Molly Gordon) handcuffs Isaac (Logan Lerman) to a bed, triggering a battle of wills as she tries to force a conversation about commitment. Fueled by witty dialogue and escalating absurdity, *Oh, Hi!* showcases standout performances from its ensemble. With unexpected twists, this off-kilter comedy delivers laughs through its clever exploration of love, control, and the messy realities of modern relationships.

Writer/Director: Sophie Brooks • **Writer:** Molly Gordon • **Producers:** David Brooks, Dan Clifton, Julie Waters, Sophie Brooks, Molly Gordon
Cast: Molly Gordon, Logan Lerman, Geraldine Viswanathan, John Reynolds

6/26, 7PM, DREAMLAND MAIN
6/29, 3:45PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO



OMAHA

USA / 83 MIN / NARRATIVE

Before dawn breaks, a father wakes his two children, packs them into their barely-functioning car, and sets out on the road, carrying only a few belongings and a sense of loss. John Magaro delivers a career-defining performance, portraying a man quietly unraveling under the weight of grief and desperation. Molly Belle Wright is extraordinary as his perceptive daughter, while Wyatt Solis brings innocence and charm as the youngest family member. As their path unfolds along this intimate road trip full of both tenderness and heartbreak, unexpected turns lead to a haunting conclusion.

Writer: Robert Machoian • **Director:** Cole Webley • **Producer:** Preston Lee • **Cast:** John Magaro, Molly Belle Wright, Wyatt Solis, Talia Balsam

6/26, 7:30PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO
6/29, 1PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO



PREDATORS

USA / 96 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

Posing provocative and perhaps unanswerable questions about society’s conception of crime and punishment, *Predators* examines the phenomenon of *To Catch a Predator*, which exposed child predators through televised sting operations. Director David Osit conducts a thoughtful, layered analysis of the show and its legacy, surfacing legally and ethically questionable tactics employed to turn vigilante justice into media spectacle. In the process, Osit asks viewers to consider their own complicity in consuming true crime programs, which trade in public humiliation and schadenfreude as popular entertainment.

Director: David Osit • **Producers:** Jamie Gonçalves, Kellen Quinn, David Osit

6/27, 3:30PM, NPAC



THE SUMMER BOOK

USA/FINLAND / 95 MIN / NARRATIVE

Inspired by Tove Jansson’s cherished novel, this film beautifully portrays the evolving bond between Sophia, a perceptive nine-year-old on the cusp of adolescence, and her wise grandmother. The family inhabits the tranquil simplicity of a summer cottage on a pristine islet in the Gulf of Finland. Glenn Close stars as the matronly grandmother who poses fundamental questions about the essence of life and death and the nature of divinity. As the summer comes to an end, we witness a family strengthened by love and connection.

Writer: Robert Jones • **Director:** Charlie McDowell • **Producers:** Kath Mattock, Kevin Loader, Alex Orlovsky, Duncan Montgomery, Aleksi Bardy, Helen Vinogradov, Glenn Close, Charlie McDowell • **Cast:** Glenn Close, Anders Danielsen Lie, Emily Matthews

6/27, 3:30PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO
6/29, 6:30PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO

DOCUMENTARY FILMS SPONSORED BY A&E INDIE FILMS



READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN

ITALY/ISRAEL / 108 MIN / NARRATIVE

In this adaptation of the *New York Times* bestseller, Azar Nafisi, a former professor at Tehran University, secretly gathers seven of her most committed female students to read forbidden Western classics. As fundamentalists seize control, the women remove their veils and speak about their hopes, disappointments, femininity, and their search for a place in an increasingly oppressive society. Through their daring engagement with books, they ignite the transformative power of literature against the backdrop of revolutionary Iran, collectively forging paths toward their futures.

Writer: Marjorie David • **Director:** Eran Riklis • **Producers:** Marica Stocchi, Gianluca Curti, Moshe Edery, Santo Versace, Eran Riklis, Michael Sharfstein • **Cast:** Golshifteh Farahani, Zar Amir Ebrahimi, Mina Kavani

6/30, 10AM, DREAMLAND MAIN



SUNFISH (& OTHER STORIES ON GREEN LAKE) 🦋

USA / 87 MIN / NARRATIVE

A sun-dappled lake becomes the stage for four quietly luminous stories. Crafted as her film school thesis project, Sierra Falconer’s impressive debut draws from her own Michigan upbringing to weave an anthology of life on Green Lake: a girl learning to sail, a prodigy struggling at summer camp, two sisters running a bed-and-breakfast, and a fisherman chasing an elusive catch. With naturalistic performances and evocative cinematography, the film reveals the beauty in ordinary moments, inviting audiences to linger in the gentle rhythms of community and change.

Writer/Director: Sierra Falconer • **Producers:** Grant Ellison, Sierra Falconer • **Cast:** Maren Heary, Jim Kaplan, Karsen Liotta, Dominic Bogart, Tenley Kellogg, Emily Hall

6/26, 1:30PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO

THERE IS ANOTHER WAY TO FLY.

IT'S FLYING PERSONAL.

And once you've done it,
you'll never want to fly any other way.



SCHEDULED SERVICE TO
NANTUCKET FROM TETERBORO
AND WESTCHESTER



PRIVATE SERVICE ANYWHERE | CARIBBEAN | NORTHEAST | SOUTHEAST | FLYTRADEWIND.COM



Douglas Elliman

IS THRILLED TO RETURN AS
A PROUD SPONSOR OF

The Nantucket
Film Festival

© 2025 DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. 12 OAK STREET, SUITE B, NANTUCKET, MA 02554. 508.365.2833



EAT

DRINK

&

SLEEP WITH US

17 Ocean Ave. Nantucket, MA

www.thesummerhouse.com

shorts: **adrift** (83 MIN)

6/26, 10AM, NPAC

A collection of six short narratives about wandering souls finding their courage, the healing power of rediscovering oneself, and navigating physical and emotional landscapes.



1. FUTURE FEELING

Writers: Ben Kauffman, Manual Cinema

Director: Ben Kauffman / USA / 2025 / 8 min

A family wakes up on a Nantucket beach with no recollection of the past, and must retrace their steps to save their future.

2. THE TRUCK

Writer/Director: Elizabeth Rao / USA / 2024 / 13 min

A Chinese American teenager and her boyfriend set out to buy the morning after pill in post-Roe America.

3. SHANGRI-LA

Writers: Rhys Raiskin, Hannah Rice

Director: Rhys Raiskin / USA / 2024 / 14 min

A decades-old love triangle resurfaces at an assisted living facility.

4. TORNADO

Writer/Director: Jack Kendrick / USA / 2024 / 14 min

A struggling contractor risks his young sons' wellbeing to cut a sweet deal.

5. SUSANA

Writers/Directors: Amandine Thomas, Gerardo

Coello Escalante / Mexico/USA / 2025 / 15 min

When a middle-aged American woman—alone in Mexico City—encounters a group of young American tourists, she jumps at the opportunity for a little adventure.

6. SUNBURST

Writer: Alec Zender / Director: Reid Cole

USA / 2025 / 19 min

Two brothers trapped in a cycle of petty crime and poor decisions see their already fragile bond unravel after a failed theft.

SPONSORED BY  TRADEWIND

Hertz®

www.hertz.com

NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL
CHEERS TO 30 AMAZING YEARS!



ELEISH VAN BREEMS HOME
WESTPORT • NANTUCKET • NEW PRESTON



Stop by the
Nantucket Crisps Store

📍 2 BROAD ST, NANTUCKET

OR ORDER ANYTIME AT **Nantucket Crisps™** NANTUCKETCRISPS.COM

shorts: the ties that bind (80 MIN)

6/27, 12:30PM, DREAMLAND STUDIO

From the bonds of romantic love to complex family dynamics, these five short narratives explore strength, fragility, and the poignant emotional cords that connect us all.



1. BDAY PRIVATE DICK

Writer: Nick Thune / Director: Dante Ariola / USA / 2025 / 12 min

In his pursuit of the best birthday ever, comedian Nick Thune realizes he's always wanted to lose somebody.

2. DEAD SERIOUS

Writers/Directors: Myriam Schroeter, Lizi Latimer / USA / 2025 / 13 min

A mother surprises her kids with a trip to the place she wants to be buried. The kids disagree with her decision.

3. THE YELLOW

Writers: Samantha Hunt, Simone Faoro / Directors: Maika Monroe, Simone Faoro / USA / 2024 / 13 min

Two lonely suburbanites find solace in freshly painted walls.

4. FIRE AT WILL

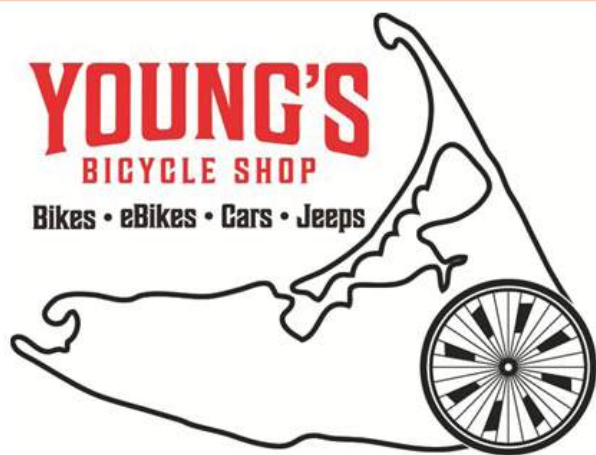
Writer/Director: Morgan Gruer / USA / 2025 / 10 min

When parents gather their four adult children over dinner to solidify the family will, the children's self-absorbed agendas send the conversation careening into chaos, leading to a desperate battle of wills.

5. THE MUSIC STORE

Writer/Director: Joe Gillette / USA / 2025 / 32 min

Two estranged, grieving brothers must work to keep their beloved music store in business.



6 Broad Street
www.youngsbicycleshop.com
508-228-1151

*The Cycle-Logical Way
To See Nantucket
Since 1931*

shorts: **common ground** (88 MIN)

6/25, 10AM, DREAMLAND STUDIO

These short documentaries offer compelling narratives about the power of connection and the need for community, from diverse perspectives that illuminate the human experience.



1. **FREEMAN VINES**

Directors: Tim Kirkman, André Robert Lee
USA / 2025 / 14 min
An 82-year-old artist hand-carves guitars from the wood from trees linked to the lynching of a young Black man in a small North Carolina town.

2. **SEAWEED STORIES** 🌿

Director: Jake Sumner / **USA / 2024 / 30 min**
A global look at seaweed, a marine organism that may hold answers to humanity's biggest challenges.

3. **CAMP WIDOW**

Director: Laura Green, Anna Moot-Levin / **USA / 2025 / 15 min**
An immersion into a weekend gathering of “widows”—people of all ages, genders, and orientations—this glimpse of a grieving community is devastating and unexpectedly funny.

4. **LAST DAYS ON LAKE TRINITY** 🌿

Director: Charlotte Cooley / **USA / 2025 / 29 min**
Three Florida women search for new homes after their trailer park is slated for closure by its corporate owner, Trinity Broadcasting Network.

kids shorts (73 MIN)

6/28, 10AM, DREAMLAND STUDIO

A collection of family-friendly short films with amusing animals, silly stories, and fun-filled adventures! Curated to spark curiosity and wonder, these films are meant to inspire all through the magic of storytelling! Suitable for kids over 5.



1. **HENRIETTA FINDS A NEST**

Writers: Matthew Scheer, Dianna McCorry / **Director:** Hannah McNally / **USA/UK / 2025 / 7 min**
Inspired by a true story of resilience and compassion. Henrietta, a young chicken, escapes a factory farm and finds a loving home, highlighting the power of love and connection.

2. **KID PRESIDENT**

Writer/Director: Yadid Hirschtritt Licht / **USA / 2024 / 6 min**
Kid President introduces his most kid-friendly policy yet: a ban on all vegetables!

3. **POW!**

Writer/Director: Joey Clift / **USA / 2025 / 8 min**
A Native American kid scrambles to charge his dying video game console at a bustling intertribal powwow.

4. **THE CONSTRUCTOR**

Writer/Director: Scott Morris / **USA / 2024 / 10 min**
Elizabeth, an impossibly precocious seven-year-old Lego constructor, struggles with “imagination blur” as her three-year-old sister attempts to free her from her rigid thinking.

5. **BIRDS OF A FEATHER**

Writer/Director: Katie Cobos / **USA / 2024 / 5 min**
A talkative parrot attempts to befriend a boy with Tourette’s syndrome.

6. **TINY TOOT - MUSHROOM MAGIC**

Writer/Director: Maria Mac Dalland / **Denmark / 2024 / 7 min**
A couple of little mushroom fairies put on a magic show for Tiny Toot and her friends.

7. **SNOW BEAR** 🌿

Writers: Aaron Blaise, Nicholas Burch / **Director:** Aaron Blaise
USA / 2025 / 11 min
When a lonely polar bear can’t find a friend... he makes one!

8. **LULINA AND THE MOON**

Writer: Marcus Vinicius Vasconcelos / **Directors:** Alois Di Leo, Marcus Vinicius Vasconcelos / **Brazil / 2023 / 14 min**
Lulina draws her greatest fears over the infinite white ground of the moon. Magically, her illustrations come to life and teach her that her problems aren’t as monstrous as her imagination depicted them.

9. **THE SOUND COLLECTOR: ONE STARRY NIGHT**

Writer: Dave Ingham / **Directors:** Chris Tichborne, Barry Purves, Lisa Arioli, Andy Burns / **UK/Italy / 2023 / 5 min**
Explore the sights and sounds of the world you love, through the eyes and ears of a little sound collector!

2025 schedule

	TUES. 6/24	WEDNESDAY JUNE 25		THURSDAY JUNE 26				FRIDAY JUNE 27			
	DREAMLAND MAIN	DREAMLAND MAIN	DREAMLAND STUDIO	DREAMLAND MAIN	DREAMLAND STUDIO	NPAC	EVENTS	DREAMLAND MAIN	DREAMLAND STUDIO	NPAC	EVENTS
9AM							9:00AM MORNING COFFEE FARAWAY				9:00AM MORNING COFFEE FARAWAY
10AM											
11AM		10:30AM OPENING DAY FAMILY FILM ELIO 98 MIN	10:00AM SHORTS: COMMON GROUND 88 MIN	10:00AM SPOTLIGHT FILM TOW 105 MIN	10:30AM MIDDLETOWN 104 MIN	10:00AM SHORTS: ADRIFT 83 MIN		10:30AM FORGE 114 MIN	10:00AM FANTASY LIFE 91 MIN	10:00AM IT'S NEVER OVER, JEFF BUCKLEY 106 MIN	
12PM											
1PM						12:30PM MAGIC HOUR 90 MIN			12:30PM SHORTS: THE TIES THAT BIND 80 MIN		
2PM		1:30PM THE DATING GAME 88 MIN	1:00PM LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT 109 MIN	1:00PM SPOTLIGHT FILM MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE 97 MIN	1:30PM SUNFISH (& OTHER STORIES ON GREEN LAKE) 87 MIN			1:30PM FOLKTALES 106 MIN		1:30PM DEEP DIVE: TONY GILROY & SCOTT FRANK 60 MIN	
3PM											
4PM						3:30PM DEEP DIVE: ALEX GIBNEY & ANDY OSTROY 60 MIN			3:30PM THE SUMMER BOOK 95 MIN	3:30PM PREDATORS 96 MIN	
5PM		4:30PM OPENING NIGHT FILM PRIME MINISTER 102 MIN	4:00PM EAST OF WALL 97 MIN	4:00PM THE BALTIMORONS 100 MIN	4:30PM ANDRÉ IS AN IDIOT 88 MIN			4:30PM COME SEE ME IN THE GOOD LIGHT 104 MIN			
6PM	6:00PM CENTERPIECE FILM JAWS @ 50: THE DEFINITIVE INSIDE STORY 88 MIN					5:30PM MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN 90 MIN					
7PM	DEEP DIVE 30 MIN	8:00PM OPENING NIGHT FILM TWINLESS 100 MIN	6:30PM IT'S NEVER OVER, JEFF BUCKLEY 106 MIN	7:00PM OH, HI! 94 MIN	7:30PM OMAHA 83 MIN				7:00PM OPENING NIGHT ENCORE TWINLESS 100 MIN	6:30PM THE DATING GAME 88 MIN	6:30PM SCREENWRITERS TRIBUTE 'SCONSET CASINO
8PM							7:30PM	7:30PM SPOTLIGHT FILM DJ AHMET 99 MIN			
9PM							LATE NIGHT STORYTELLING: DIRTY 30 120 MIN				
10PM											

SATURDAY JUNE 28			
DREAMLAND MAIN	DREAMLAND STUDIO	NPAC	EVENTS
			9:00AM MORNING COFFEE FARAWAY
10:30AM IN THEIR SHOES® WITH KEN BURNS 90 MIN	10:00AM KIDS SHORTS 73 MIN	10:00AM ANDRÉ IS AN IDIOT 88 MIN	
	12:30PM MIDDLETOWN 104 MIN	1:00PM NOBU 110 MIN	
1:00PM SPOTLIGHT FILM TOW 105 MIN			
	3:30PM MAGIC HOUR 90 MIN	4:30PM SPOTLIGHT FILM MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE 97 MIN	
4:00PM OPENING NIGHT ENCORE PRIME MINISTER 102 MIN			
			6:30PM ALL-STAR COMEDY ROUNDTABLE WITH BEN STILLER HIGH SCHOOL
7:30PM MEET THE BARBARIANS 102 MIN	7:00PM CENTERPIECE FILM JAWS @ 50: THE DEFINITIVE INSIDE STORY 88 MIN	7:00PM LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT 109 MIN	

SUNDAY JUNE 29			
DREAMLAND MAIN	DREAMLAND STUDIO	NPAC	EVENTS
			9:00AM MORNING COFFEE FARAWAY
10:30AM OPENING DAY ENCORE ELIO 98 MIN	10:00AM LOST & FOUND IN CLEVELAND 116 MIN	10:30AM FOLKTALES 106 MIN	11:00 AM FLIPPING THE SCRIPT WITH ELIN HILDERBRAND 73 HULBERT AVE
1:30PM THE LIBRARIANS 92 MIN	1:00PM OMAHA 83 MIN	1:45PM SPOTLIGHT FILM DJ AHMET 99 MIN	
DEEP DIVE 30 MIN			
	3:45PM OH, HI! 94 MIN		
4:30PM CLOSING NIGHT FILM SPEAK. 104 MIN			
	6:30PM THE SUMMER BOOK 95 MIN		
7:30PM FANTASY LIFE 91 MIN			

MONDAY JUNE 30	
DREAMLAND MAIN	DREAMLAND STUDIO
10:00AM READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN 108 MIN	10:30AM CLOSING NIGHT ENCORE SPEAK. 104 MIN
1:00PM BEST OF FEST	1:30PM BEST OF FEST

VENUES

DREAMLAND FILM & CULTURAL
CENTER
(MAIN, STUDIO, BANK OF AMERICA®
LOUNGE)
17 Main Street - TOWN

NANTUCKET PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER (NPAC)
5 N Water Street - TOWN

FARAWAY
(MORNING COFFEE)
29 Centre Street - TOWN

'SCONSET CASINO
(SCREENWRITERS TRIBUTE, LATE
NIGHT STORYTELLING)
10 New Street - SIASCONSET

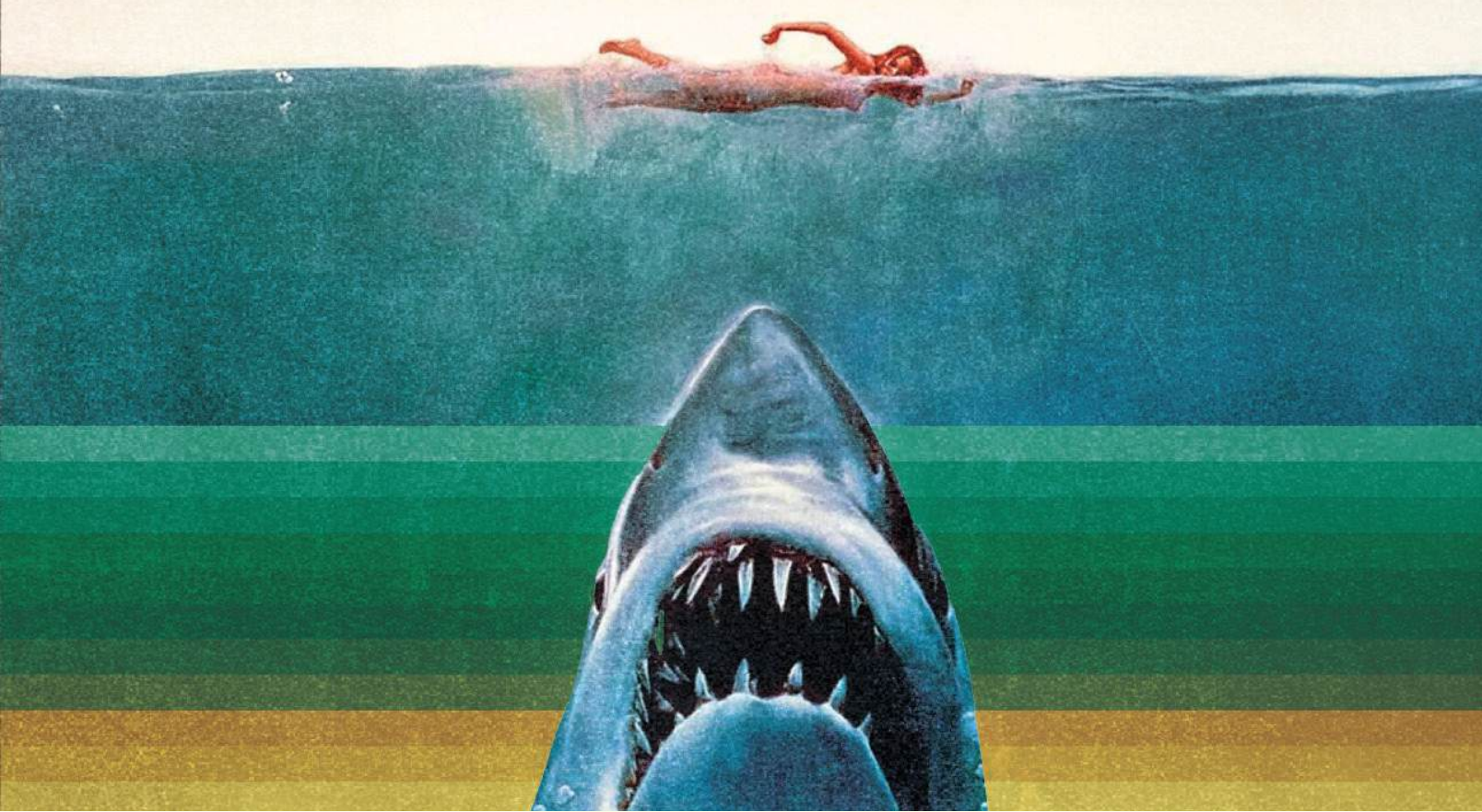
NANTUCKET HIGH SCHOOL
(COMEDY ROUNDTABLE)
10 Surfside Road - MID-ISLAND

FLIPPING THE SCRIPT
73 Hulbert Avenue - BRANT POINT

30 years of signature programs

From the very first Festival in 1996—long before the term “Signature Programs” even existed—we were bringing new screenplays to audiences with live staged readings and by hosting memorable discussions with filmmakers at **Morning Coffee With...**®. As the years went on, we began honoring cinematic greats at the **Screenwriters Tribute**, sharing hilarious and heartfelt tales at **Late Night Storytelling**, and diving deep with insightful talks at **In Their Shoes**®. In the last two decades, we’ve gone on to create some of our most beloved programs, including the **All-Star Comedy Roundtable**, **Garden and Marquee Events**, and **Deep Dive Screenings + Talks**.

As we turn 30, we are thrilled to share Signature Programs that have created some of the most memorable moments in our history.



JAWS – 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

JAWS @ 50 SCREENING & DEEP DIVE TALK

TUESDAY, 6/24, 6:00 PM, DREAMLAND MAIN

Jaws @ 50: The Definitive Inside Story is an electrifying new documentary that plunges into the making of *Jaws*, the film that redefined cinema and created the modern blockbuster. Packed with never-before-seen footage from Steven Spielberg’s personal archive and jaw-dropping stories, the film makes its premiere in the U.S. this summer on Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, the iconic islands where the legend began.

Following the screening, join us for a dynamic panel exploring the cultural impact of *Jaws* on generations of filmmakers and audiences—and on the public perception of sharks.

For more information on the film, see page 16.

Deep Dive Panel includes:



Wendy Benchley
Ocean Advocate,
Public Speaker



Dr. Austin Gallagher
Marine Biologist,
Global Conservation
Leader and Shark
Expert



Justin Falvey
Producer (*Jaws @ 50*, *The Americans*,
The Haunting of Hill House)



MODERATED BY:
Chris Matthews
Journalist and Political
Commentator



MODERATED BY:
Kathleen Matthews
Broadcast Journalist
and NFF Board Chair

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **DREAMLAND**
NANTUCKET'S
FILM & CULTURAL CENTER

SUPPORTED BY **REMAIN**





DEEP DIVE WITH FILMMAKERS TONY GILROY & SCOTT FRANK

FRIDAY, 6/27, 1:30PM | NPAC

Step inside the minds of two master storytellers—Tony Gilroy (2025 Visionary Storyteller Award recipient) and Scott Frank—for a dynamic conversation on writing, directing, and shaping modern cinema. With over 50 films between them, their work spans *Michael Clayton*, *Andor*, the *Bourne* trilogy (Gilroy), and *The Queen's Gambit*, *Out of Sight*, and *Logan* (Frank). Whether you're a writer, cinephile, or TV junkie, this deep dive into craft, collaboration, and creative endurance promises to be a standout moment of the Festival.

CONVERSATION INCLUDES:

SCOTT FRANK

Logan, *Marley & Me*, *Minority Report*, *Out of Sight*, *The Queen's Gambit*

TONY GILROY

Andor, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Duplicity*, *Michael Clayton*



DEEP DIVE WITH ALEX GIBNEY LIVE PODCAST RECORDING: THE BACK ROOM WITH ANDY OSTROY

THURSDAY, 6/26, 3:30PM | NPAC

Join us for a special live recording of *The Back Room*, Andy Ostroy's witty, unfiltered podcast that takes on politics, pop culture, and everything in between. For this episode, Ostroy welcomes legendary documentarian Alex Gibney, the Oscar-winning filmmaker behind *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*, *Going Clear: Scientology & the Prison of Belief*, and the hotly anticipated *Musk*.

With his trademark insight and fearlessness, Gibney—this year's recipient of NFF's Special Achievement in Documentary Storytelling Award—dives into the stories behind the stories in what promises to be an unforgettable conversation.

Smart, surprising, and full of revelations, this is *The Back Room*—live.

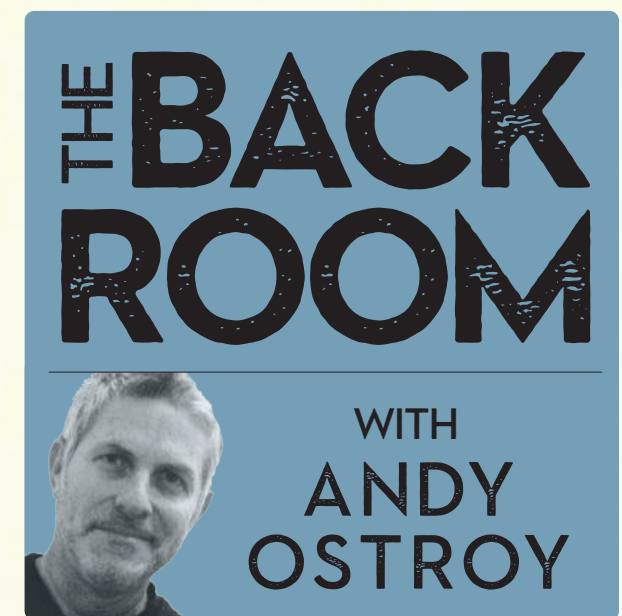
CONVERSATION INCLUDES:

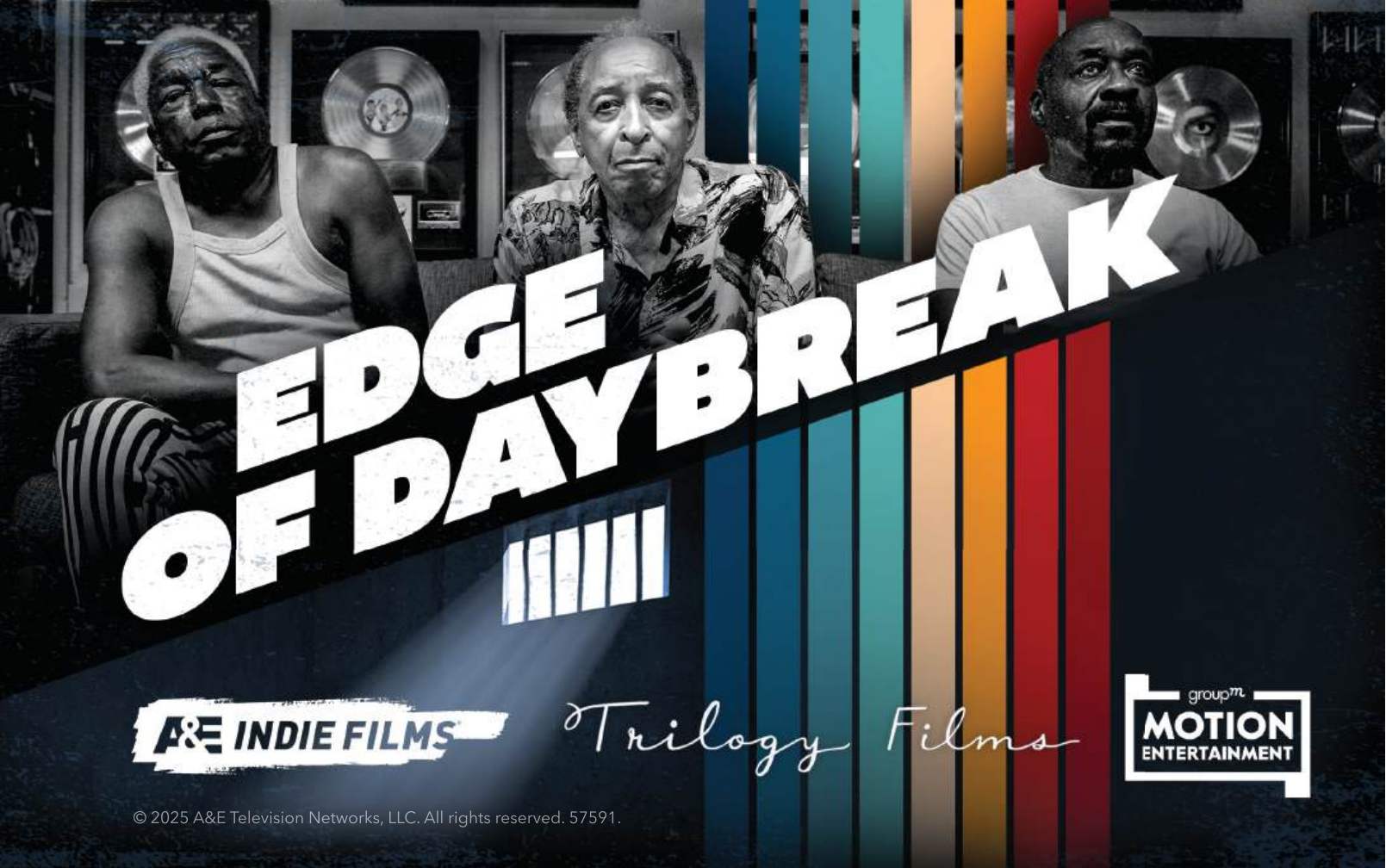
ALEX GIBNEY

The Bibi Files, *Wise Guy: David Chase and the Sopranos*, *Taxi to the Dark Side*

ANDY OSTROY

The Back Room with Andy Ostroy Podcast, *Adrienne*, *Serious Moonlight*





DEEP DIVE: THE LIBRARIANS

SUNDAY, 6/29 1:30 | DREAMLAND MAIN

One of the most urgent and galvanizing films of the Festival, *The Librarians* shines a spotlight on modern-day heroes fighting on the front lines of intellectual freedom. Directed by Kim A. Snyder (*Newtown*) and executive produced by Sarah Jessica Parker, this powerful new documentary follows librarians from New Jersey to Texas as they take a courageous stand against censorship and the sweeping wave of book bans—many targeting the very classics generations have grown up cherishing.

Following the screening, join Snyder, producer Maria Cuomo Cole, and 2023 New Jersey Librarian of the Year and film protagonist Martha Hickson for a conversation about the cultural stakes of this fight. [For more information on the film, see page 24.](#)

CONVERSATION INCLUDES:

KIM A. SNYDER
Filmmaker

MARIA CUOMO COLE
Producer

MARTHA HICKSON
NJ Librarian of the Year

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



MORNING COFFEE WITH...®

DAILY THURSDAY-SUNDAY AT 9:00AM | FARAWAY

Start your Festival day with a coffee and conversation with NFF writers, directors, and actors. Join us in the garden at FARAWAY Nantucket and enjoy these daily, iconic conversations. *Complimentary coffee, tea, and breakfast pastries from FARAWAY.*



PRESENTED BY The Inquirer & Mirror FARAWAY



SCREENWRITERS TRIBUTE

SPONSORED BY **BANK OF AMERICA**  

FRIDAY, 6/27 | DOORS OPEN 6:30PM, CEREMONY STARTS 7:15PM | ‘SCONSET CASINO

Raise a glass to three decades of storytelling at the 30th anniversary Screenwriters Tribute—the signature celebration of the Nantucket Film Festival. This unforgettable evening honors the visionaries behind the screen: the groundbreaking screenwriters, documentary filmmakers, and television creators whose words shape the stories we love. Join us at the historic ‘Sconset Casino for a dazzling night of cocktails, conversation, and cinematic excellence.

In 1998 Nantucket Film Festival created the centerpiece of the Signature Programs, the Screenwriters Tribute. Beginning with the Visionary Storyteller Award, which honors the body of work of screenwriters, other awards have been added over the decades, including the Compass Rose Award (since 2008), Special Achievement in Documentary Storytelling (since 2010), New Voices In Screenwriting Award (since 2010), Excellence in Television Writing Award (since 2015), and more.



MOVE ASIDE, LITTLE GOLD MEN: THE HISTORY OF THE NFF QUARTERBOARD

At the Nantucket Film Festival’s Screenwriters Tribute, each honoree receives a custom quarterboard emblazoned with their name. These long, wooden signs tie back to the island’s whaling industry, when it was legally required for fishermen to name their ships for identification and tracking. As the industry waned, these quarterboards became collectible novelties, and Islanders started affixing decommissioned signs to their homes, which began the custom of naming one’s Nantucket home as we know it today. The Festival has carried on the tradition by giving out this unique island award ever since our inaugural Tribute in 1998.



HOST: **MICHAEL IAN BLACK**

Michael Ian Black is an actor, writer, and comedian. He began his career with the sketch comedy show *The State*, which ran on MTV in the early 1990s. From there, he co-created several television shows, including *Viva Variety*, *Stella*, and *Michael & Michael Have Issues*. He also starred on the NBC television programs *Ed*, *The Jim Gaffigan Show*, and *Another Period*, and has appeared on many other television shows, including *Reno 911*, *Mercy*, and VH1’s *I Love...* series, as well as the film *Wet Hot American Summer*. He’s written several books, including the *New York Times* bestselling *My Custom Van* and the critically acclaimed *A Better Man*. Black regularly tours the country as a stand-up comedian and has released several stand-up specials.

VISIONARY
STORYTELLER AWARD

TONY GILROY

The Nantucket Film Festival is proud to honor Tony Gilroy for his exceptional contributions to the art of screenwriting. From *Michael Clayton* to the *Bourne* series and *Andor*, Gilroy’s work is defined by its intelligence, tension, and moral complexity. His scripts are tightly constructed, character-driven, and fearless in tackling power, politics, and human vulnerability. With a distinctive voice that bridges commercial success and critical acclaim, Gilroy has elevated genre storytelling into something urgent and profound. His writing has been celebrated by the Academy and Peabody Awards, underscoring his undeniable influence on modern cinema. We are thrilled to celebrate a writer whose work consistently challenges and captivates audiences around the world.

SELECT CREDITS

Andor, *Beirut*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, the *Bourne* series, *Duplicity*, *Michael Clayton*, *State of Play*, *Proof of Life*, *Armageddon*, *The Devil’s Advocate*, *Extreme Measures*, *Dolores Claiborne*, *The Cutting Edge*



PRESENTED BY
SCOTT FRANK
WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER
The Queen’s Gambit,
Godless, *Logan*, *Marley & Me*,
Minority Report, *Out of Sight*,
Get Shorty, *Little Man Tate*



Andor



Bourne Identity



Duplicity



Michael Clayton



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN
DOCUMENTARY STORYTELLING AWARD

PRESENTED BY **A&E INDIE FILMS**

ALEX GIBNEY

NFF salutes a fearless and prolific filmmaker, Alex Gibney, who has redefined the landscape of investigative documentary with films like *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*, *Going Clear: Scientology & the Prison of Belief*, and *Taxi to the Dark Side*. *Enron* dissected corporate greed with gripping clarity, *Going Clear* cracked open the secretive world of Scientology, and the Oscar-winning *Taxi to the Dark Side* remains a haunting exposé of U.S. military practices. His work is marked by intellectual rigor, cinematic flair, and an unrelenting pursuit of truth. Gibney doesn't just document stories—he interrogates systems, exposes corruption, and gives voice to whistleblowers and truth-tellers. His impact on the genre is profound, and his storytelling continues to inspire, challenge, and inform audiences worldwide. With his upcoming documentary on Elon Musk, Gibney once again turns his lens on power, influence, and the forces shaping our future.

SELECT CREDITS

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room, *Going Clear: Scientology & the Prison of Belief*, *Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine*, *Zero Days*



PRESENTED BY
WENDY SCHMIDT
FOUNDER, REMAIN NANTUCKET

A philanthropist who creates non-profit organizations to work with communities around the world on clean, renewable energy, healthy food systems and oceans, and the protection of human rights



EXCELLENCE IN
TELEVISION WRITING AWARD

PRESENTED BY **VARIETY**

JOANNA CALO

NFF is proud to honor co-creator of the Emmy Award-winning series *The Bear*, Joanna Calo, who has redefined prestige television with writing that's raw, tender, and electric with urgency. Her work brilliantly captures the chaos and beauty of human connection, especially when it's under pressure. Whether it is expressed in her drive behind *BoJack Horseman*, *Beef*, *Undone*, or her success with *The Bear*, Calo's voice is unmistakably fresh and deeply resonant. She brings empathy and edge to every frame. Most recently, Calo co-wrote the new hit Marvel film, *Thunderbolts**. We cannot wait to see what she writes next.

SELECT CREDITS

The Bear, *Beef*, *BoJack Horseman*, *Hacks*, *Thunderbolts**, *Undone*



PRESENTED BY
LIONEL BOYCE
ACTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER

The Bear, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *The Jellies!*



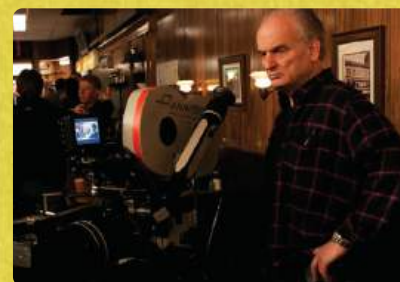
*In Restless Dreams:
The Music of Paul Simon*



*Enron: The Smartest Guys
in the Room*



The Dark Money Game



*Wise Guy: David Chase and
the Sopranos*



Beef



Hacks



The Bear



BoJack Horseman

AMAZON MGM STUDIOS

proudly supports the

Nantucket Film Festival

*and their commitment to celebrating the
vast diversity of human experience through
the art of screenwriting and storytelling*

LATE NIGHT STORYTELLING: DIRTY 30

THURSDAY, 6/26 | DOORS OPEN 7:30PM, STORIES AT 8:00PM | 'SCONSET CASINO

A Festival favorite, Late Night Storytelling returns for our 30th anniversary with a fresh batch of handpicked storytellers sharing personal tales—this time inspired by the theme Dirty Thirty.

What does Dirty Thirty mean? That's up to the storyteller. Maybe it's a coming-of-age misadventure, a risqué romance, a hard-earned life lesson, or a beautifully messy moment of reinvention. At thirty, you're old enough to know better... and still young enough not to care. Expect dirty martinis, dirty secrets, dirty deeds—and everything in between.

Hosted by the ever-hilarious **Ophira Eisenberg**, this raucous, revealing night of unscripted storytelling has become one of NFF's most beloved traditions.

PRESENTED BY **JUGGERNAUT**



HOST: **OPHIRA EISENBERG**

Ophira Eisenberg is a standup comedian, writer, and host of the award-winning comedy podcast *Parenting Is a Joke*. She also hosted NPR's *Ask Me Another*, where she interviewed hundreds of celebrities. She's appeared multiple times on CBS's *The Late Late Show*, Comedy Central, HBO, and is a regular on *The Moth Radio Hour*. Her memoir, *Screw Everyone: Sleeping My Way to Monogamy*, was optioned for a TV series. She is a regular at The Comedy Cellar and her solo show *Leaving A Mark: A Comedy About Scars* made its Off-Broadway debut to rave reviews.



ELEMENTAL
WINES

FIRST OF ITS KIND
ALUMINUM WINE BOTTLE



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



WRITERS
GUILD
of AMERICA
EAST

We help writers make waves.

Hear the stories behind
your favorite stories.

Listen to OnWriting:
A Podcast of the WGA East.

P.S. – Want to get involved with the
Guild? Visit us online to learn about
our Indie & Documentary Caucuses!

➔ WGAEA.ST/FESTIVALS

FLIPPING THE SCRIPT: FROM BESTSELLERS TO SCREEN WITH ELIN HILDERBRAND

SUNDAY, 6/29 | DOORS OPEN 11AM | THE HOME OF THE JOHNSONS

Step into the world of Elin Hilderbrand. This special NFF Garden Event is a breezy seaside affair and an intimate, behind-the-scenes look at the beloved Nantucket stories making their way from page to screen.

The conversation focuses on *The Five-Star Weekend*, Hilderbrand's heartfelt novel about grief, friendship, and second chances—soon to be a Peacock limited series starring and executive produced by Jennifer Garner. The author will be joined by the powerhouse women bringing it to life, including writer and producer Bekah Brunstetter (*This Is Us*, *Maid*), UCP executive Jen Gwartz (*Suits: LA*), NBCUniversal's Lisa Katz (*Poker Face*), and producer Sue Naegle, founder of Dinner Party Productions and former CCO of HBO.

We will also catch up on the recent success of Netflix's *The Perfect Couple* starring Nicole Kidman and Liev Schreiber. Writer/showrunner Jenna Lamia will join Hilderbrand to chat about adapting the project and bringing the Nantucket murder-mystery to life. And for those dreaming of holiday lights on Nantucket, enjoy a special preview of *Winter Street*, Hilderbrand's seasonal favorite, now in development. Join us for an unforgettable morning full of stories, laughter, and screen-worthy scenery.

Conversation moderated by Emily Longeretta, Senior TV Features Editor of *Variety*



1. JENNA LAMIA is an accomplished writer, producer, and actress (*The Perfect Couple*, *90210*, *Awkward*, *Good Girls*).

2. JEN GWARTZ, executive vice president, UCP (*Party Down*, *Veronica Mars*), is shepherding *The Five-Star Weekend* with a sharp eye for story and execution.

3. ELIN HILDERBRAND, *New York Times* bestselling author and the “Queen of Beach Reads.”

4. BEKAH BRUNSTETTER, award-winning screenwriter (*This Is Us*, *American Gods*), is adapting *The Five-Star Weekend* with heart, humor, and emotional precision.

5. SUE NAEGLE, executive producer and former chief content officer at HBO, is known for championing bold, meaningful content (*Game of Thrones*, *Girls*, *Boardwalk Empire*).

6. LISA KATZ, president of scripted content at NBCUniversal Television and Streaming (*This Is Us*, *The Good Place*), oversees development with a commitment to quality and audience resonance.

30
INDIA BLAKE

India Blake is thrilled to be a sponsor of the 2025 Nantucket Film Festival.

PRESENTED BY

BANK OF AMERICA



INDIA BLAKE

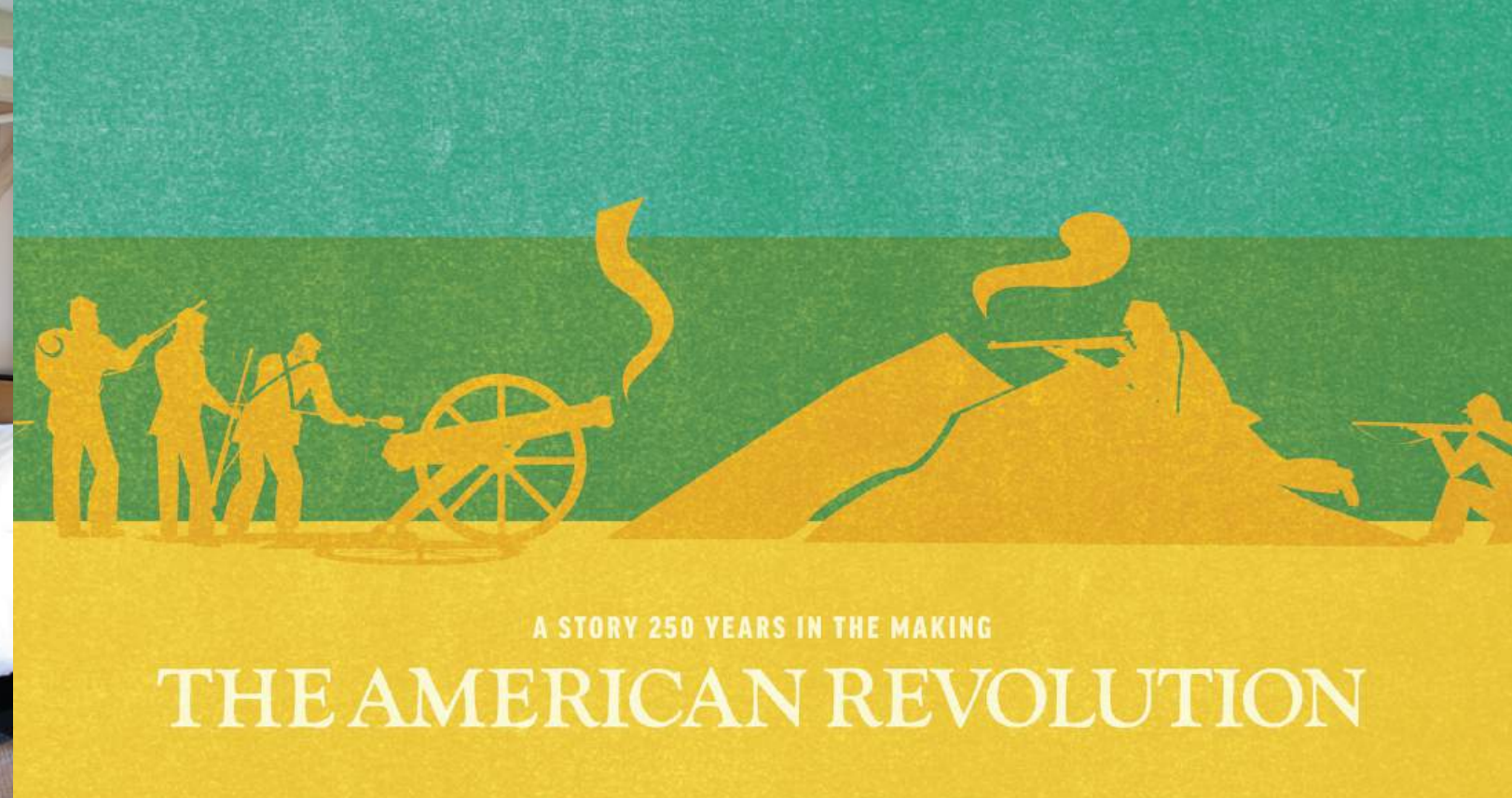


VARIETY



Be Independent. Act Professional.

www.sagindie.org



IN THEIR SHOES® WITH KEN BURNS AND NATHANIEL PHILBRICK

PRESENTED BY
BANK OF AMERICA

SATURDAY, 6/28, 10:30AM | DREAMLAND MAIN

Join us for a landmark In Their Shoes® conversation following an exclusive sneak peek of *The American Revolution*, the sweeping new 12-hour documentary series from acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns.

Through stunning archival material and illuminating storytelling, *The American Revolution* explores how a ragtag group of colonies sparked a global political awakening, defied a king, fought for their independence, and dared to build a republic founded on new radical ideas of freedom, justice, and self-governance.

After the preview, Ken Burns and bestselling historian Nathaniel Philbrick will take the stage for a wide-ranging conversation, led by CBS journalist Lesley Stahl, on the revolution's enduring legacy, the complexities of its promises, and the urgent relevance of its unfinished questions.

CONVERSATION INCLUDES:



Ken Burns

The Civil War, Baseball, Jazz, The War, The National Parks: America's Best Idea, Prohibition, The Roosevelts: An Intimate History, The Vietnam War, Country Music, The U.S. and the Holocaust, The American Buffalo, Leonardo da Vinci



Nathaniel Philbrick

In the Heart of the Sea; Sea of Glory; The Last Stand; Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution; In the Hurricane's Eye: The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown



MODERATED BY

Lesley Stahl

CBS News, CBS White House correspondent, 60 Minutes, author of Becoming Grandma

Enjoy
the shows!



Proud to support Nantucket Film Festival
ATLANTIC EAST
NANTUCKET REAL ESTATE

508-228-7707 • NantucketRealEstate.com



ALL-STAR COMEDY ROUNDTABLE

SATURDAY, 6/28, 6:30PM | NANTUCKET HIGH SCHOOL

The All-Star Comedy Roundtable returns with a lineup as bold, brilliant, and unfiltered as ever. **Ben Stiller**—the Emmy-winning multi-hyphenate behind *Severance*, *Zoolander*, and *The Ben Stiller Show*—gathers some of the sharpest minds in comedy for an anything-goes conversation about making people laugh—and all the chaos that comes with it. Come for the laughs and stay for the wild tangents.



- BEN STILLER**
is the award-winning multi-hyphenate behind *Severance*, *Zoolander*, and *The Ben Stiller Show*.
- ZACH CHERRY**
(*Severance*, *Succession*) is known for his perfectly tuned deadpan and unpredictable energy, delivering laugh-out-loud moments with subtle precision.
- AMBER RUFFIN**
(*The Amber Ruffin Show*, *Late Night with Seth Meyers*) mixes political satire with infectious joy, turning current events into comedy with disarming charm and sharp intelligence.
- ILIZA SHLESINGER**
(*Elder Millennial*, *Good on Paper*) brings high-octane energy and unapologetic commentary on modern womanhood, wielding wit like a weapon and never missing a beat.
- MAE MARTIN**
(*Feel Good*, *The Flight Attendant*) blends stand-up and storytelling with a deeply personal touch, exploring identity and mental health with dry humor and emotional depth.

THIS EVENT IS A FUNDRAISER FOR OUR FESTIVAL’S EDUCATION PROGRAM – SEE NEXT PAGE.



education

TEEN VIEW SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP

Now in its 25th year, Teen View is a signature educational initiative that provides free, high-impact arts education for Nantucket youth. Led by seasoned writer and director and NYU screenwriting teacher Bill Gullo, Teen View empowers middle and high school students by cultivating storytelling skills, encouraging creative expression, and offering meaningful opportunities for engagement with the arts. The Teen View Screenwriting Workshop is an immersive weeklong program for incoming eighth to eleventh graders, guiding teens through the process of writing their own original short screenplays. Participants attend Festival programming—including short films and screenwriter talks—and then reconvene for focused, interactive afternoon writing sessions.

TEEN VIEW JURY

The Teen View Jury brings together a group of seventh graders to evaluate short films screened at the Festival. Over the course of the week, students learn the basics of critical film analysis, including how to identify story structure, evaluate performances, and assess visual storytelling.

SUPPORTED BY



2025 Teen View Jury:

- Finn Getoor
- Sylvia Giacchetti
- Mia Graves
- Phoebe Hamill
- Lyla Hudson
- Stella Hull
- Marin Mailloux
- Boya Phatthanaphuti
- Boden Pickman
- Drew Tapley
- Hendrix Wall

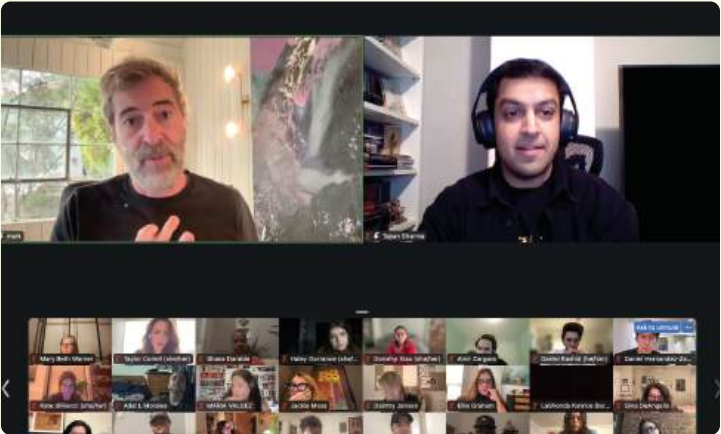
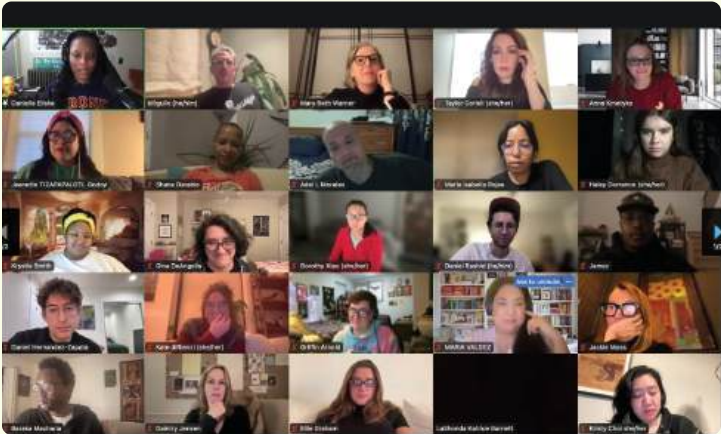


SCREENWRITER SESSIONS

Each winter, NFF and Almanack Screenwriters provide the unique opportunity for writers to be a part of a cohort for five weeks of live, one-of-a-kind intimate conversations and guidance from some of the foremost screenwriters working today. The Sessions include interactive writing workshops and feedback from a rich community of peers. Throughout the program, participants generate new screenplay ideas, develop works in progress, and hone their craft with personalized tips and inspiration from the best screenwriters in the world. Guest speakers have included Charlie Kaufman, Nancy Meyers, Lulu Wang, Nicole Holofcener, Siân Heder, Destin Daniel Cretton, Tom McCarthy, Shaka King, Nia DaCosta, Kumail Nanjiani, and more.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

—ALMANACK
SCREEN—
WRITERS



tony cox screenplay competitions

The Tony Cox Screenplay Competitions recognize emerging writers and their new screenplays. These competitions give writers the opportunity to have their scripts read by a prestigious jury, receive top industry recognition, and participate in a Festival that values the craft of screenwriting.

EPISODIC JURY



Proma Khosla
Senior TV Writer, *IndieWire*



Justine Lupe
Actor, Director, Writer, Producer;
Nobody Wants This, Succession



Marc Resteghini
Producer; Jack Tar Pictures,
Young Sherlock

FILM JURY



Katie Silberman
Writer, Producer; *Booksmart, Don't Worry Darling*, and Netflix's *Set It Up*



Jeffrey Soros
CEO of Los Angeles Media Fund



Alison Willmore
Film critic at *Vulture* and *New York* magazine

FILM COMPETITIONS

Feature Screenplay

Recognizes one exceptional unproduced screenplay as the best from a pool of submissions, winning the writer a spot in the Almanack Screenwriters October writer's retreat on Nantucket. Also included: a \$2,500 cash prize, a complimentary trip to the Festival with access to programming and events, and a bound copy of their script.

Short Screenplay

Awards the writer of the best unproduced short script a \$500 cash prize, a bound copy of their script, and access to the Festival's programming and events, where they can discuss the project with fellow filmmakers and key industry attendees.

EPISODIC COMPETITIONS

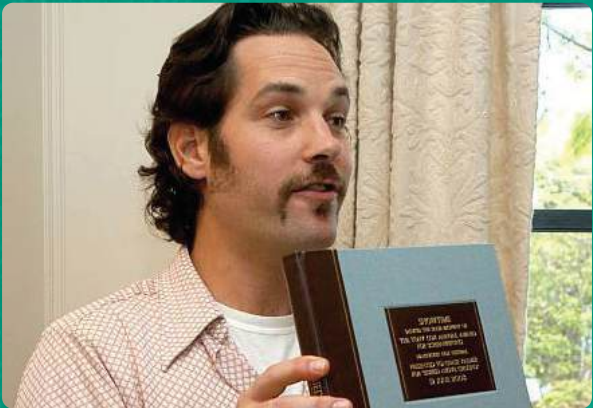
60-Minute Screenplay

Honors the writer of the best 60-minute episodic pilot with a \$1,000 cash prize, a bound copy of their script, and access to the Festival's programming and events.

30-Minute Screenplay

Honors the writer of the best 30-minute episodic pilot with a \$1,000 cash prize, a bound copy of their script, and access to the Festival's programming and events.

The finalists and winner for each competition will be announced during the Festival and on nantucketfilmfestival.org.





2025 film awards

From our Screenwriters Tribute and Tony Cox Screenplay Competitions to our Best of Fest and Audience Awards, we are proud to honor screenwriters and filmmakers who continue to excel and innovate.

ADRIENNE SHELLY AWARD

This \$5,000 award is presented in partnership with The Adrienne Shelly Foundation to a female writer or director working in the film arts in honor and remembrance of Adrienne Shelly's film legacy. All feature-length films in the NFF lineup written and/or directed by women are eligible. The award winner is announced at the Festival.

Past winners include: Sally Aitken — *Every Little Thing*, Nicole Newnham — *The Disappearance of Shere Hite*, Amy Bandlien Storkel — *The Pez Outlaw*, Crystal Moselle — *The Wolfpack*, Alexandra Dean — *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*, Nancy Schwartzman — *Roll Red Roll*, Irene Taylor Brodsky — *Beware the Slenderman*.

MARIA MITCHELL VISIONARY AWARD

Named after the Nantucket native who was the first woman inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Maria Mitchell Visionary Award is given to a female filmmaker who stretches innovative boundaries. The recipient of the award is announced during the Festival and receives a \$5,000 grant and an engraved bracelet designed by Nantucket jeweler Anna P. Jay. Created in partnership with The Maria Mitchell Association.

Past winners include: Sally Aitken — *Every Little Thing*, Sophie Barthes — *The Pod Generation*

SHINE GLOBAL CHILDREN'S RESILIENCE IN SCREENWRITING AWARD

The Children's Resilience in Screenwriting Award presented by Shine Global is given to a film with outstanding storytelling that effectively portrays the resilience and strength of children. The winner is awarded \$2,500 and an invitation to participate in Shine Global's Resilience Awards. The inaugural winner in 2024 was *Los Frikis* directed by Michael Schwartz and Tyler Nilson.

TEEN VIEW SHORT FILM AWARD

A group of Nantucket seventh and eighth graders are selected as a jury with the goal of picking the best short film at the Festival. The middle school students screen, deliberate, and judge each film and in the process learn the fundamentals of critical film analysis. At the end of the Festival, the jury presents the Teen View Award to the film that rises above the rest.

AUDIENCE AWARDS

Each year our audiences take on the distinct honor of awarding their favorite features and short films with Audience Awards. All films in the NFF lineup are eligible and winners are announced at the end of the Festival.

Past winners include: *Los Frikis*; *Porcelain War*; *It Ain't Over*; *The Full Monty*; *Bathtubs Over Broadway*; *The Big Sick*; *Other People*; *Life, Animated*; *Sleepwalk with Me*; *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*; *Being Elmo*; *Run Lola Run*; *The Cable Guy*.

Covering ALL of Nantucket

With The I&M's long list of contributors and special features INCLUDING FILMS!

Meet Sarah Wright...
Writer of "Film Buff"



Meet Peter McEachern...
Writer of "Wine Cellar"



Meet Cam Gammill...
Writer of "Fish Finder"



Meet Lucy Apthorp Leske...
Writer of "Gardening by the Sea"



Meet Sarah Leah Chase...
Writer of "Good Dish"



We are a proud media sponsor of the Nantucket Film Festival.

Congratulations on your 30th anniversary!

A print or digital subscription to *The Inquirer and Mirror* gets you immediate access to the stories as they are reported.

Subscribe for as low as \$1/month. • ack.net/subscribe or call 508-228-0001

METROGRAPH

THE BEST IN CURATED CINEMA
IN THEATER / AT HOME

MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:
NEW RELEASES - EXCLUSIVE PREMIERES
FILMMAKER INTRODUCTIONS
MEMBERS ONLY EVENTS AND PRODUCTS

USE CODE **NTFF** FOR 40% OFF AN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP!



METROGRAPH.COM



HOLISTIC SPIRITS Co.



"The World's First
Plant-Powered Spirits Company"

Certified

Corporation

CISCO BREWERS
EST. NANTUCKET

SUMMER of CISCO





CHAMPAGNE PERRIER JOUËT



Fill your world with wonder

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY

staff & boards

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jill Burkhart, *Founder*
Jonathan Burkhart, *Founder*
Jill Karp, *Vice Chair*
Kathleen Matthews, *Board Chair*
Rhoda H. Weinman, *Secretary*
Donick Cary
Sam Cox
Beth English
Ginny Grenham
Cindy Jones
Deborah Kirk Kahn

Katy Knox
Milan Popelka
Abbe Raven
Marc Resteghini
Alice Rogoff
Lois Romano
Steven B. Samuels
Felix Sanchez
Tom Scott
Carter Stewart
Ben Stiller

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Penny Dey
Mark Donato
Caroline B. Gottschalk
Jay Hanley
Pamela Hoehn-Saric
Gill Holland
Matt Holt
Chris Matthews
Aaron Dickson Millhiser
Emily Mullins
Ryan Runstadler
John Schmidt
Sarah Vacchiano

HONORARY BOARD

Cecelia Joyce Johnson
Anne Meara, *In Memoriam*
Jerry Stiller, *In Memoriam*

YEAR-ROUND STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MYSTELLE BRABBÉE

FESTIVAL PRODUCER
JACLYN ROSE WOHL

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
MEGAN INABA

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS PRODUCER
BETH EMELSON

SENIOR PROGRAMMER
BASIL TSIOKOS

LEAD PROGRAMMER
ANITA RASWANT

FESTIVAL MANAGER
HANNAH TYMANN

2025 INTERNS
KEYAIRA CAMERON
MACK FLAKE
HELEN RECZKOWSKI

READING & SCREENING COMMITTEE

Paul Angotta
Cameron Asharian
Jonathan Burton
Tiffany Clifton

Trevor Davis
Ivana Eiger-Burgos
Lori Eng
Charysse Harper

Rena Jensen
Brandon Kiziloz
Chris LeClere
Henry Leeker

Lucy Livingston
Ariya Mamun
Greg Pacer
Michael Perrone

Sheila Smith Drapeau
Owen Sullivan
Bill Tivenan
Fiona Torres Moino
Rachel Zimmerman

FESTIVAL STAFF

FESTIVAL OPERATIONS + PROGRAMMING

Charles Warburton, Events Director
Trevor Davis, Production Manager
Spencer Hillman, Program Coordinator
Chance Tanner, Production Coordinator
Madaleine Kotary, Volunteer Coordinator
Jessie Harthun, Festival Assistant
Mack Flake, Programming Assistant
Daniel Mezzalingua, Events Assistant

MARKETING

Molly Fulton, Publications & Creative Manager
Justin McIntyre, Graphic Designer
Marketing Agency: Blue Seven Studios

GUEST SERVICES

Casey Hindman-McIntyre, Guest Services Director
Bradley Ellis, Box Office Manager
Greg Pacer, Registration Manager
Alexandria Kelly, Travel Manager
Bradi Mason, Registration Assistant
Keyaira Cameron, Talent Assistant

DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Rogers, Sponsorship Manager
Helen Reczkowski, Development Assistant

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Grace Ann Roberts, Associate Producer

ADMINISTRATIVE

Rob Diaz, Bookkeeper
Robert L. Powley, Legal Services

EDUCATION

Rick Colon, Teen View Jury Coordinator
Bill Gullo, Teen View Director
Anna Popnikolova, Teen View Assistant

BOX OFFICE + VENUE STAFF

Forest Bell
Kwamé Berry
Tiffany Clifton
Jordana Fleischut
Hilary Hodgson
Ella Maré
Solomon Peck
Anna Peters
Angela Robinson
Wynton Wong

PROJECTION + TECH

Rachel Cox, Exhibition Manager
Paul Berad, Projectionist
Jimmy Ibarra, Projectionist
John Quackenbush, Projectionist
Timothy McDonald, JP3
Aiden McDonald, JP3
Karl Mehrer, K2 Imaging
Michael Lawless, K2 Imaging

PUBLIC RELATIONS - FRANK PR

Clare Anne Darragh
Lina Plath
Stephanie Davidson
JC Diaz



thank you

DIRECTORS CIRCLE

Caroline B. Gottschalk and Allen W. Nelson
Ginny Grenham and Paul Zevnik
Jay Hanley
Cecelia Joyce Johnson
Cindy and Evan Jones
Jill and Stephen Karp
Katy Knox and Jeff Krupa

FOUNDER

Lisa and Bill Becker
Carole and Gary Beller
Anne Marie and Doug Bratton
Katherine and David Cheek
Nancy Field
Candace Fowler and Robert Brookhiser
Elizabeth Galvin
Rachel and Bryan Girsch
Karen and Robert Ketterer
Kimberly and Dennis Kozlowski
Tom Kim and John Olson
Andronico Luksic
Kevin McNeely
Carol Nast and Debbie Miller
Karen and Jonathan Wohl

LEGACY

Karen Keelan
Robin Rednor

HOMESTAY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mary Louise and Bruce Cohen
Peg and Phil Condon
Don and Darlene DeMichele
Gabriel Fresca
Jay Harman
Island Kitchen
The Johnson Family

Deborah and Peter Kahn
Michelle Kolb
Suzie Kraft
Lee Real Estate
Alice Leventhal
Judy MacLeod
Jenn McCormick

Nantucket Catering
Susan O'Malley
Olwen and Don Pongrace
Tom and Susan Roeder
Robin Rubenstein
Louisa Schaefer
John and Wendy Schmidt

PRODUCERS CIRCLE

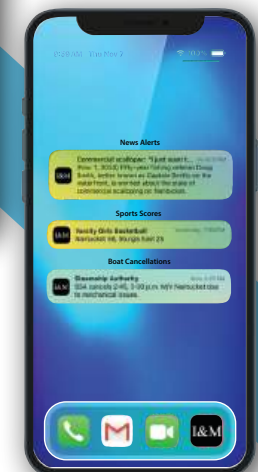
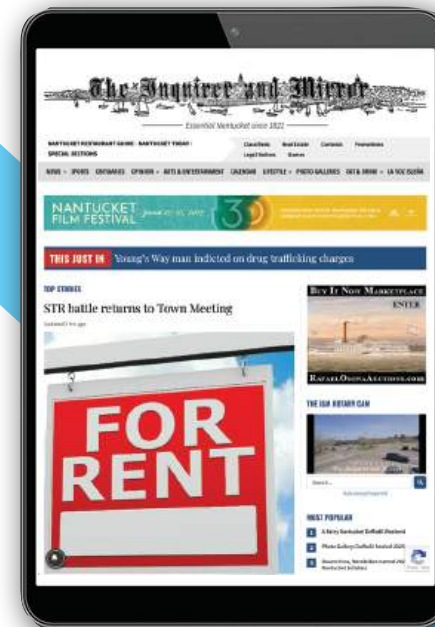
Elizabeth Bagley and Family
Valerie Gersten
Matt Holt
Corinne and Victoria Nevinny

Loretta McClary
Sandra Medallis
Karen Mehra
Tamara Munk
Rebecca Nidositko
Daniel and Rossana Nigrosh
Maureen Orth
Eileen Pollack
Eden Rafshoon
Carol Remy
Marion Rich
Nina Ross
Linda Saligman
Marianne Stanton
Brendan Stone and Madison Plummer
Mark Walsh and Mary Veil
Amy Weber and Wendy Schwartz
Betsy Werdiger
Harry Wilcox and Patricia Hambrick
Mark and Seema Williams

For more information on supporting NFF by joining the Major Donor Circle, visit nantucketfilmfestival.org/festival-passes or for more information on our homestay program, visit nantucketfilmfestival.org/homestay.

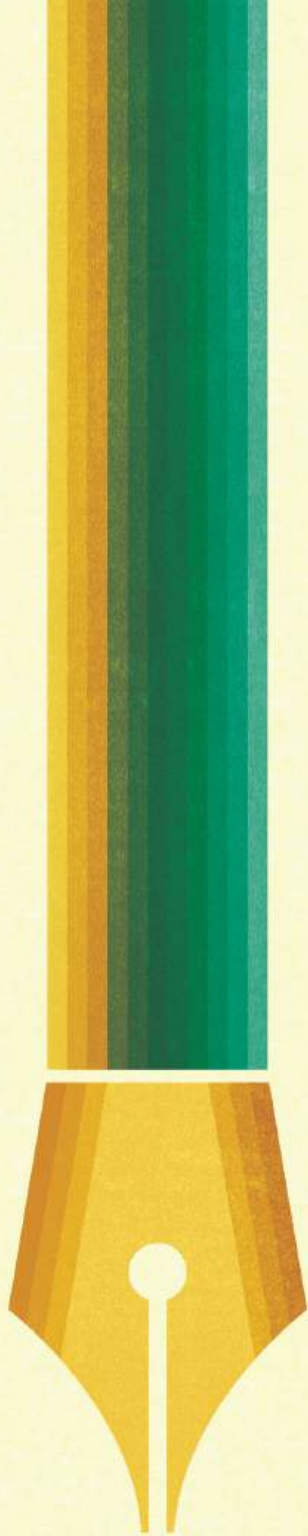
Island News at Your Fingertips

With The I&M's newsletters
and mobile alerts



A print or digital subscription
to *The Inquirer and Mirror* gets
you immediate access to the stories as
they are reported.

Subscribe for as low as \$1/month
ack.net/subscribe or call 508-228-0001



*30 Years of Storytelling—
And We're Just Getting Started!*

WWW.NANTUCKETFILMFESTIVAL.ORG