



**FIFTH ANNUAL BIG EDDY FILM FESTIVAL  
ADVANCE SCREENING OF  
'BLEED FOR THIS'**

***Starring Miles Teller, Aaron Eckhart, Katey Sagal  
Directed by Narrowsburg's Ben Younger***

***At the Tusten Theatre, Narrowsburg, NY  
September 17, 2016***

The **Big Eddy Film Festival** is honored to host an advance screening of Narrowsburg resident Ben Younger's newest film BLEED FOR THIS on Saturday, September 17 at 9 pm at the Tusten Theatre in Narrowsburg, NY.

BLEED FOR THIS tells the true story of boxer Vinny Pazienza (Miles Teller), who won two world title fights only to be taken down in the prime of his career by a car accident that injured his spine. Trainer Kevin Rooney (Aaron Eckhart) works with Vinny to not only get him to walk again, but get him back in the ring.

Younger made his directorial debut in 2000 with the crime drama BOILER ROOM (2000) with Giovanni Ribisi and Ben Affleck, and followed up in 2005 with PRIME starring Meryl Streep and Uma Thurman.

Younger had taken a nearly decade-long hiatus from Hollywood when film producer Chad Verdi, who was a longtime friend of Vinny Pazienza's, approached him with the story.

"The script started as a writing assignment," explains Younger. "Once I was well into the writing process, I realized I had a personal connection to Vinny's story. I hadn't directed in awhile, and he hadn't fought. In the story, there was a sense of despair and of wanting to 'come back.'"

Verdi introduced Younger to Martin Scorsese, who directed the classic boxing film RAGING BULL (1980), and who used BOILER ROOM as reference for Leonardo DiCaprio's character in WALL STREET. The story of an Italian American fighter hit all the right notes for Scorsese, and soon he signed onto the project as an executive producer.

BLEED FOR THIS was edited by Narrowsburg native Zac Stuart-Pontier, who met Younger when he was a local high school student. Pontier had plans to go to film school. Younger hired him for his first Hollywood job as a production assistant on PRIME.

"He went off and did amazing things since then," says Younger. Pontier won an Emmy last year for his work on HBO mini-series THE JINX: THE LIFE AND DEATHS OF ROBERT DURST.

"We used lots of archival footage in this film—not just in the end credits, but peppered throughout the film. So, Zac's work on THE JINX was key," Younger says.

On the subject of the cast of BLEED FOR THIS, Younger says, "I chose Miles Teller based on his performance in THE SPECTACULAR NOW, which a lot of people saw. WHIPLASH hadn't come out yet.

"I chose Aaron Eckhart because I felt he hadn't been used to his full potential," Younger says. "He's unrecognizable in this film. And he's being talked about for awards for this performance."

BLEED FOR THIS is screening at a very limited number of film festivals this fall, including Telluride (September 2 – 5), Toronto (September 8 - 18), Big Eddy (September 16 – 18), and London (October 5 -16) before its November theatrical release by Open Road (who distributed last year's Oscar-winner SPOTLIGHT). This film is not yet rated, and is 116 minutes in length.

BLEED FOR THIS screens Saturday, September 17 at 9 pm at the Tusten Theatre, 210 Bridge Street in Narrowsburg, NY. Tickets are \$10; visit [BigEddyFilmFest.com](http://BigEddyFilmFest.com) or call 845-252-7576.

Read more about BLEED FOR THIS from Ben Younger here:

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/movies/la-ca-mn-0904-sneaks-bleed-for-this-20160815-snap-story.html>.

The fifth annual Big Eddy Film Festival takes place September 16 – 18, showing two dozen brand new feature films, documentaries, shorts, and videos for kids.

All-Access Festival passes are \$75, and include a guaranteed seat at all screenings, including opening night, admission to the Saturday evening “Meet the Filmmakers” cocktail party, and a complimentary 5th anniversary BEFF tee shirt. Six-Packs of tickets are available for \$40 (which do not include opening night, nor the cocktail party).

**About the Big Eddy Film Festival**

Produced by Delaware Valley Arts Alliance of Narrowsburg, NY (DVAA), the Big Eddy Film Festival aims to advance the traditional art of storytelling by showing the newest and best independent films from around the world and our own backyard. Visit [www.BigEddyFilmFest.com](http://www.BigEddyFilmFest.com).

**About the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance**

Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, founded in 1976, serves as Arts Council for Sullivan County, NY. DVAA’s mission is to advance the arts in the region through support and encouragement of artists; innovative programs; advocacy; and alliances with arts organizations, business, and government. Visit [www.DelawareValleyArtsAlliance.org](http://www.DelawareValleyArtsAlliance.org).

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Big Eddy Film Festival director available for interviews.

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