

BIG EDDY

FILM FESTIVAL

NARROWSBURG - NEW YORK

SEVERAL PREMIERES TO SCREEN AT THE 8TH ANNUAL BIG EDDY FILM FESTIVAL

September 20 – 22, 2019 in Narrowsburg, NY

Delaware Valley arts Alliance is proud to present the 8th annual **Big Eddy Film Festival** (September 20 – 22, 2019) showcasing dozens of notable new films and filmmakers and celebrate filmmaking in our own backyard. This year the festival is excited to premiere several films that explore the fine line between reality and illusion.

The festival will open on Friday, September 20 with a new documentary focused on a sordid chapter in our region's history. "Narrowsburg," directed by Martha Shane, tells the story of Jocelyne and Richard Castellano, a French film producer and a Mafioso-turned-actor who 20 years ago attempted to turn the Sullivan County hamlet of Narrowsburg into the "Sundance of the East." Persuading dozens of locals that they could be movie stars, the pair created a fever pitch of excitement, launching a film festival and luring investors to finance a film production. "Narrowsburg" features interviews with regional residents including Zac Stuart-Pontier, Tom and Cecelia Coacci, Ralph Huebner, Dr. Paul Salzberg, Judge Frank LaBuda, Floyd "Lurch" Campfield and many others who all recount their colorful experiences with the unscrupulous duo.

"I couldn't be more excited to bring this film to Narrowsburg," says director Martha Shane who started working on the film in 2012. "To screen this documentary about events that took place twenty years ago, in the exact place where they transpired, is a surreal and mind-boggling experience. The original seed of a story for this project took place in New York City, but as I began meeting people in Narrowsburg and hearing their stories over the years, I became increasingly drawn to focusing the film around the Castellanos' time in this town. I am so grateful to everyone who participated in this project. The concentration of great

storytellers in Narrowsburg amazes me on every visit, and I am looking forward to hearing everyone's reaction to the film.”

The festival will also present the area premiere of “Guest Artist,” the directorial debut of Timothy Busfield (“The West Wing”), produced by Melissa Gilbert (“Little House on the Prairie”), and starring Jeff Daniels (currently on Broadway in “To Kill A Mockingbird”). The first film by trio’s new production company Grand River Productions. “Guest Artist” is adapted from Daniels’ original stage production about a troubled playwright and an aspiring writer who explore the tangled relationship between the dreams of youth and the wisdom of age. The film also features Erika Slezak (“One Life to Live”) and newcomer Thomas Macias.

“Our shared love of the American theatre is evident in every frame of our modern little throwback,” Daniels said. “Together, we felt that there was a film in ‘Guest Artist’ that spoke to the precarious role of the American artist and that made it the perfect project for Grand River Productions’ feature film debut.”

This year’s Big Eddy Film Festival will also present filmmaker Q&As, panel discussions, and festive parties. In addition to screening films at the Tusten Theatre, screenings and special events will take place at additional venues throughout Narrowsburg.

Some 2019 Big Eddy Film Festival highlights:

NARROWSBURG

Director: Martha Shane

NARROWSBURG tells the story of a French film producer and a mafioso-turned-actor who attempt to turn a tiny town into the “Sundance of the East.” Persuading the townspeople that they can be movie stars, the pair create a fever pitch of excitement, launching a film festival and shooting a gangster movie. As this stranger-than-fiction tale unspools, it becomes a meditation on the power of cinema, and the fine line between dreams and delusions. Martha Shane and others from the film crew will be in attendance.

GUEST ARTIST

Director: Timothy Busfield

Producer: Melissa Gilbert

Joseph Harris (Jeff Daniels), a legendary but troubled playwright, comes to a small Michigan town at Christmastime to mount his latest play. Greeting the cynical New Yorker is a young, aspiring writer (Thomas Macias) who challenges his literary hero to be the icon he’d hoped for. Timothy Busfield and Melissa Gilbert will be in attendance.

GUEST ARTIST Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/311336187>

SAINT FRANCES

Director: Alex Thompson

Writer: Kelly O'Sullivan

After her decision to end an unwanted pregnancy, 34-year-old Bridget (Kelly O'Sullivan) reluctantly agrees to nanny the bright and rambunctious Frances, forming an unexpected bond with her and her parents. This disarming and fresh comedy-drama written by O'Sullivan won the Audience Award at the 2019 SXSW Film Festival. The filmmakers are expected to be in attendance.

All Big Eddy Film Festival selections are listed here:

<http://www.bigeddyfilmfest.com/category/2019-films/>

Attend the Festival

Individual film tickets are \$10. Also available are special All-Access Festival Passes for \$100 (a \$60 savings), which include a guaranteed seat at all screenings, including opening night and admission to the Saturday evening Meet the Filmmakers cocktail party. Discounted Six-Pack tickets are available for \$40 (does not include opening night film or Meet the Filmmakers party). Tickets are on sale now.

Screenings take place at the Tusten Theatre, 210 Bridge Street and the Narrowsburg Union, 7 Erie Ave in Narrowsburg, NY. For more information and tickets, visit BigEddyFilmFest.com or call 845-252-7576.

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.

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. DVAA also produces the Tusten Theatre Cultural Series, Alliance Gallery exhibitions, and Riverfest. Visit www.DelawareValleyArtsAlliance.org.

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Filmmakers and festival director Tina Spangler available for interviews.

*For publicity materials and to arrange interviews, contact: Tina Spangler, Festival Director, tina.spangler@gmail.com
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