

# 50th Annual USA Film Festival June 24-28, 2020

Angelika Film Center Dallas





# USAFF50

## WELCOME

Welcome to USAFF50.

Recent events may have caused us to adjust our dates and travel for many of our artists, but we are so pleased to be back at the Angelika Dallas theater with some terrific films showcasing historical events and true stories and films that celebrate the power of art and the human spirit.

## TICKET INFO

*With respect for the safety of our guests, several changes regarding ticketing and seating will be observed for this year's program. Please see notes below and info on back panel.*

### Tickets

In celebration of the Festival's 50th Anniversary, tickets for all programs are **FREE** but must be reserved in advance by telephone by calling the Festival office at **214-821-6300**.

**Important Note:** No tickets will be available at the door; Tickets will be available via advance telephone reservations ONLY.

*The theater is not open to the public for regular shows during USAFF50. Because seating is limited, no one without an ADVANCE RESERVATION will be allowed to enter the Angelika complex (no "walk-ups" allowed).*

**Tickets are limited;** Tickets will be provided to callers on a first-come, first-served basis.

*(There will be no ticket desk at the theater. Additional instructions will be provided by telephone when you call to request tickets.)*

**Call-in Tickets** will be available to **USAFF Members & Sponsors** via telephone beginning **JUNE 15th**

**Call-in Tickets** will be available to the **General Public** via telephone beginning **JUNE 18th**

### Seating & Safety

- **Facemasks** are required for all guests.
- Seating for all programs will be **limited** to 1/4 of auditorium capacity per the Angelika Theater's protocols.
- **Social distancing seating** will be in place per the Angelika Theater's protocols.
- **Contact-free event** -- There will be no hand-off of tickets for this event; **All ticket admission will be via advance telephone reservations only.**

## DEDICATION

USAFF50 is dedicated to these wonderful friends and artists.

USAFF first hosted beloved actor **KIRK DOUGLAS** in 1976 for an unforgettable retrospective program of screenings and conversation.

Medieval scholar, film director, comedy genius, and children's author, **TERRY JONES** was honored by USAFF in 1999 at our KidFilm program where he thrilled audiences of all ages with screenings, readings (and performances) from his bewitching books.

A brilliant man and talented artist on stage, on television and in film, USAFF played many of **RENÉ AUBERJONIS**'s films beginning with Robert Altman's *M.A.S.H.* in 1970, and we were honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to him during a recent visit in 2017.

*(Pictured Judith and René Auberjonois and USAFF Patron Barbara Hunt)*

The charismatic and athletic actor **ROBERT CONRAD** joined USAFF in 1982 with director Richard Brooks for the filmmaker's retrospective and a screening of their new film *Wrong is Right*. *(Pictured Richard Brooks and Robert Conrad)*

We also remember with great affection long-time USAFF friends **Patti Oldham Gilpin** and **John Desplas** who passed away recently. Both were beloved, talented and generous members of the arts community in Dallas and New Orleans, respectively.



# USA FILM FESTIVAL 2020

## WEDNESDAY, June 24th - Opening Night

### FREE DINNER & A MOVIE!

We know you've missed one of America's favorite outings -- We have too. In celebration of the **USA Film Festival's 50th Anniversary year** we invite you to a movie and dinner - on us - courtesy of our friends at Norma's Cafe!



#### HAROLD AND MAUDE (1971)

Wednesday, June 24 7:15pm

***If you want to sing out, sing out!*** Hal Ashby's eccentric, philosophical dark-comedy (written by Colin Higgins) became an enduring, lovable cult classic through its peculiar, humorous look at what draws people together. Wealthy, death-obsessed 20-year-old Harold (Bud Cort) meets life-loving, free-spirited 79-year-old Maude (Ruth Gordon) at a stranger's funeral. The two form an unlikely friendship despite the usual prejudices that separate people by class, gender and age and the indomitable Maude manages to show Harold how to live -- and die -- well. The charmingly quirky film is carried along by Cat Stevens' great music. 91mins. Rated PG. Special thanks to Paramount Pictures.

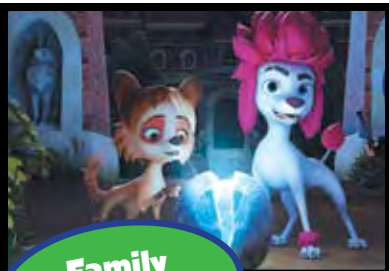


#### AIRPLANE! (1980) - 40th Anniversary Screening

Wednesday, June 24 7:30pm

***"Can you fly this plane, and land it?" "Surely you can't be serious." "I am serious... and don't call me Shirley."***

A masterpiece of absurd comedy -- and endless now-famous quotes -- *Airplane!* remains a wonderfully silly melodrama where every character (save one) plays it completely straight. The plot is really beside the point -- an ex-fighter pilot who is afraid to fly must try to land the plane safely after the crew and passengers get food poisoning (always order the chicken). It's the non-stop jokes that hold center stage here and the equal-opportunity spoof skewers every stereotype the filmmakers could think of. The film stars Robert Hays and Julie Hagerty and features Leslie Nielsen, Robert Stack, Lloyd Bridges, Peter Graves, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Lorna Patterson. Written and directed by David and Jerry Zucker and Jim Abrahams. 88mins. Rated PG. Special thanks to Paramount Pictures.



#### 100% WOLF

Wednesday, June 24 7:00pm

Meet Freddy Lupin, heir to a proud family line of werewolves. Desperate to become a werewolf himself, Freddy is in for a shock when, on his 13th birthday, his first "transwolfation" goes awry, turning him into a ferocious ... poodle. Just when Freddy thinks life can't get any worse, he's groomed against his will into a pink poodle, chased into the streets and thrown into dog prison. Can Freddy and his new streetwise friend, Batty, escape? Who is the sinister man following his every move? Despite his pink and fluffy exterior, can Freddy prove he's still 100% wolf? Find out in this charming animated comedy for the whole family. Directed by Alexis Stadermann. 85 mins. *100% Wolf* will be released by Viva Pictures Distribution, LLC in Fall 2020.

*We welcome our guests from area Boys and Girls Clubs and Dallas Park and Recreation Centers for these special screenings.*

Select your film above, then give us a call to make a reservation when phone lines open (June 15 & June 18).

Our friends at **Norma's Cafe** will provide everyone with a **free box dinner** to enjoy during the movie.

*Attendance for all shows is limited; No tickets will be available at the door.*

Admission for all programs is by ADVANCE **TELEPHONE RESERVATION ONLY**.

## SPECIAL THANKS

With regard to this year's program, we want to thank all of our **filmmakers, distributors and film reps** for their patience through all of the necessary reshuffling and rescheduling to make this in-theater program possible. As always, we are honored to support your inspiring works.

We want to thank our **Sponsors** (listed in this flyer) for their support to make the program available as **FREE ADMISSION** in celebration of the Festival's 50th Anniversary.

We send special thanks to our **National Short Film Jurors** -- Karen Allen, Diane Baker, Jim Beaver, Bill Butler, Rosson Crow, Dale Dickey, Peri Gilpin, Bill Haller, Ron Judkins, Sandra Luckow, Ralph Macchio, Chris Roe, Stephen Tobolowsky and Brian Van Holt, as well as our **local pre-screening Jury crew** for being a huge part of this year's process. Their selections are scheduled throughout the program.

A number of **Tribute** programs and anniversary events honoring **Master Artists** scheduled for this Spring had to be re-scheduled due to uncertainty regarding safe travel. We look forward to presenting these great artists at a future date.

And finally, we extend grateful thanks to our **members, volunteers, Board of Directors, vendors, and friends and colleagues** at the Angelika Film Center. Your partnership and support made this year's program possible.



# USA FILM FESTIVAL 2020

## THURSDAY, June 25th



### SOME KIND OF HEAVEN

Thursday, June 25 7:00pm

*Some Kind of Heaven* follows retirees living at the fountain of youth -- The Villages community in central Florida. At The Villages, a married couple, a widow, and a bachelor find Eden and a second bite at the apple. A single handyman looks for work and a woman with money, while another single woman considers love after loss and joining the Parrotheads, and each of the deadly sins are on full display. From synchronized swimming to pickleball, the good life is waiting, as well as a discounted funeral package now at a new, lower price. In a transcendent debut film that puts a twist on the "long-term" relationship, Lance Oppenheim digs below the perfect facade to explore each person's oscillation between integrity and despair, reinvention and recklessness, freedom and familiar safety. *Some Kind of Heaven* will be released by Magnolia Pictures. 83mins. Presented with our friends at **3 Stars Jewish Cinema**.



### HOUSE OF HUMMINGBIRD

Thursday, June 25 7:15pm

Set against the backdrop of a rapidly expanding Seoul in 1994, isolated, lonely 14-year-old Eun-hee -- the hummingbird of the title -- searches for connections in writer/director Bora Kim's stunning feature film debut about a young girl who remains resilient through adversity. Deprived of attention from her dysfunctional family, Eun-hee roams the neighborhood with her new friend and explores romantic relationships. Along the way, she endures domestic violence from her abusive, favored older brother, a series of betrayals, and faces a health scare. Only when Young-ji, a new teacher, arrives does Eun-hee finally form a bond with someone she feels truly understands her. The film will be released by Well Go USA and KinoMarquee via virtual cinema on June 26th. 138mins. **Presented with our friends at Asian Film Festival Dallas.**



### OUT STEALING HORSES

Thursday, June 25 7:30pm

Set in 1999, 67-year-old, recently widowed Trond (Stellan Skarsgård) lives in self-imposed isolation in the Norwegian countryside and looks forward to welcoming the new millennium alone. As winter arrives, he meets one of his few neighbors, Lars (Bjørn Floberg), and realizes he knew him in the summer of 1948. 1948 -- the year Trond turned 15 and spent the summer with his father at a lodge in the idyllic forests of rural Norway (the same lodge in which Trond currently resides); the last summer Trond saw his father; the year Trond was faced with tragedies, betrayal, and abandonment... the summer Trond grew up. This beautiful and evocative adaptation of Per Petterson's bestselling, award-winning 2003 novel of the same name is directed by Hans Petter Moland. The cast also includes Tobias Santelmann, Jon Ranes, and Danica Curcic. The film will be released by Magnolia Pictures this Summer. 123mins.

## FRIDAY, June 26th



### COLLECTIVE

Friday, June 26 6:45pm

On October 20, 2015, a horrific fire at the Bucharest's club Colectiv (captured on video) killed 27 people and injured 180. Soon after, more burn victims began dying in hospitals from wounds that were not life-threatening. When a doctor blew the whistle to a team of investigative journalists at the Romanian newspaper *Gazeta Sporturilor* (a sports publication) regarding widespread health care fraud, a national disaster that enriched politicians and mobsters was revealed as one appalling revelation leads to another. In an effort to reform the unbelievably corrupt system, a new health minister -- who offered unprecedented access to his efforts -- was appointed... but this access demonstrated more horrors in the obstacles he faced. Following journalists, whistle-blowers, burn victims, and government officials, *Collective* is a riveting, uncompromising look at the impact of investigative journalism at its best. The film is directed/produced/co-written by Alexander Nanau and co-written by Antoaneta Opris. 109mins. The film will be released by Magnolia Pictures in Fall 2020.



### SUMMERLAND

Friday, June 26 7:30pm

Alice is a reclusive writer, resigned to a solitary life on the seaside cliffs of Southern England while World War II rages across the channel. When she opens her front door one day to find she's to adopt a young London evacuee named Frank, she's resistant. It's not long, however, before the two realize they have more in common in their pasts than Alice had assumed. Gemma Arterton, Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Tom Courtenay star in this intensely emotional story of love's endurance in trying times. Written and directed by Jessica Swale. 100mins. The film will be released by IFC Films in theaters and on demand on July 31st.

Note: Film titles are confirmed at press time; additional works may appear in the line-up.



### LGBTQ SHORT FILMS

Friday, June 26 7:00pm

We celebrate Gay Pride Month with this collection of dramatic, comedic, and historical shorts featuring characters, themes, and filmmakers from the LGBTQ community. In Rachel Bickert & Emily Tapanes' documentary *LADYLIKE* a young queer woman in the South comes to terms with her sexuality despite cultural stereotypes within her conservative community, family and self; in Thomas Vernay's *MISS CHAZELLES* two rival small town girls maintain a relationship despite rising tensions with their friends and family; in Edouard Montoute's *MY LADY OF THE CAMELIA* a black male actor attends an audition for a female role; in Sean Sakamoto's *THE RECEPTION* two fathers who lost their sons on their wedding day are at odds but manage to bond in extreme circumstances through memories of their sons; in Gregory Allen's *REPARATIONS* a Jewish Holocaust survivor slowly opens up to an African-American student doing research; in Mason Fleming's *TRIBUNAL* a harried interpreter must go beyond her boundaries to determine the fate of an asylum seeker before a prejudiced judge; in Spencer Squire's outlandish *TRIP'S DUPLAGE* a disgruntled boy toy murders his diva actress sugar momma (Stephanie Beacham) and attempts to conceal his crime by assuming her identity; and in Shane O'Neill's documentary *WHO THREW THE FIRST BRICK AT STONEWALL* people who were at Stonewall in 1969, historians and some contemporary queer writers address the long-debated question. 120mins.

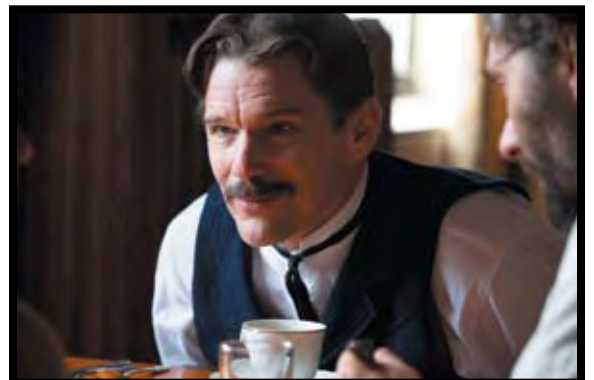
As always, the views expressed in this year's films are those of the filmmakers and their subjects. The USAFF does not engage in propaganda efforts to influence legislation or elections. We support respectful, constructive conversation and exchange of ideas.



### A CALL TO SPY

Friday, June 26 7:15pm

Inspired by true stories, *A Call to Spy* is a remarkable, captivating spy thriller featuring exceptional performances. In the beginning of WWII, with Britain becoming desperate, Churchill orders his new spy agency, Special Operations Executive (SOE), to recruit and train women as spies. Their daunting mission: conduct sabotage and build a resistance. SOE's "spymistress" Vera Atkins (Stana Katic) recruits two unusual candidates: Virginia Hall (Sarah Megan Thomas), an ambitious American with a wooden leg, and Noor Inayat Khan (Radhika Apte), a Muslim pacifist. Together, these women help to undermine the Nazi regime in France, leaving an unmistakable legacy in their wake. This original screenplay draws on SOE, OSS, and CIA files as well as interviews with living relatives. *A Call to Spy* is directed by Lydia Dean Pilcher and written by Sarah Megan Thomas. The film's terrific cast also includes Linus Roache and Rossif Sutherland. 123mins. The film will be released by IFC Films in Fall 2020.



### TESLA

Friday, June 26 7:45pm

Brilliant, visionary Nikola Tesla (Ethan Hawke) fights an uphill battle to bring his revolutionary electrical system to fruition, then faces thornier challenges with his new system for worldwide wireless energy. The film tracks Tesla's uneasy interactions with his fellow inventor Thomas Edison (Kyle MacLachlan) and his patron George Westinghouse (Jim Gaffigan). Another thread traces Tesla's sidwinding courtship of financial titan J.P. Morgan (Donnie Keshawarz), whose daughter Anne (Eve Hewson) takes a more than casual interest in the inventor. Anne analyzes and presents the story as it unfolds, offering a distinctly modern voice to this scientific period drama which, like its subject, defies convention. Written and directed by Michael Almerayda. 102mins. The film will be released by IFC Films in theaters and on demand on August 21st.



# USA FILM FESTIVAL 2020

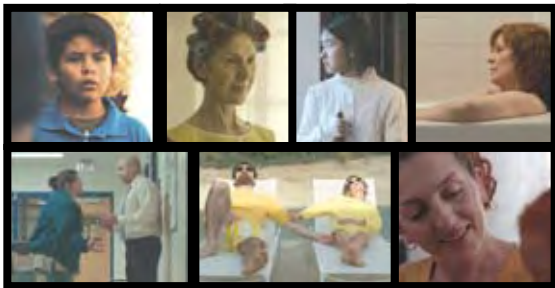
## SATURDAY, June 27th



### HIGH SCHOOL SHORT FILMS

Saturday, June 27 3:00pm

Join us for a collection of class project short films from Garland High School International Baccalaureate (IB) film students in the Reel Owl Cinema program, which teaches students the art of filmmaking with an emphasis on narrative storytelling. 60mins.



### STUDENT SHORT FILMS

Saturday, June 27 4:30pm

Join us for a program of new U.S. and international student works including João Dall's stella's magical DÍA DE LAS CARPAS which follows a group of boys who try to help an undocumented girl reunite with her family; Emanuele Daga's FLORENCE follows an older, isolated woman who remembers how to feel hopeful after receiving a love letter in her pocket; Miaomiao Liu's HAWAII follows a young waitress who works in a NYC Chinatown restaurant but dreams of going to Hawaii; Christopher Rogers' LONELINESS follows a middle-aged woman who responds to a "woman wanted" sign; Jaclyn Noel's poignant THE OTHER SIDE OF NIGHT follows a mother in the wake of a night of violence in Reading, Pennsylvania; Borja Soler's SNORKEL explores the relationships, effects, and hardships of two young sisters with separated, embattled parents; and Ecem Çelik's UKDE reveals a woman whose careful routine is altered when a young girl suddenly enters her life. 105mins.



### RADIUM GIRLS

Saturday, June 27 7:15pm

Based on true events in the 1920's, *Radium Girls* stars Joey King and Abby Quinn as Bessie and Jo Cavallo, teen sisters who dream of Hollywood and Egyptian pyramids as they paint glow-in-the-dark watch dials at the United States Radium Company in New Jersey. When Jo becomes ill, Bessie's world is turned upside down as a mystery slowly begins to unravel: Jo is not the first girl in the radium factory to fall ill. Bessie decides to fight for the women around her, and she becomes a powerful advocate as she risks everything to stand up to the corporation that runs the factory. The beautifully-crafted film is co-directed by Emmy-winning and Academy Award-nominated producer Lydia Dean Pilcher and filmmaker Ginny Mohler, who wrote the award-winning original screenplay with Brittany Shaw. The film will be released by Juno Films in September. 103mins. **Presented with our friends at Women in Film/Dallas.**



### ELLA FITZGERALD: JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS

Saturday, June 27 4:00pm

Tracing the story of Ella Fitzgerald's life, director Leslie Woodhead's fascinating documentary explores how her music became a soundtrack for a tumultuous century. From a 1934 talent contest at the Apollo theatre in Harlem, the film follows Ella's extraordinary journey across five decades as she reflects the passions and troubles of the times in her music and her life. Moving beyond conventional biopic, the film uses images, archival footage, and music to bring to life the context of Ella's unique career -- featuring interviews with Smokey Robinson, Jamie Cullum, Tony Bennett, and Norma Miller amongst others. The film will be released by mTuckman Media. 90mins. **Co-presented with Sammons Jazz and the Sammons Center for the Arts.**



### NARRATIVE I SHORT FILMS

Saturday, June 27 7:30pm

This collection of dramatic shorts includes a middle-aged, single mother in war-torn Eastern Ukraine longing for a better life in Dekel Berenson's dark comedy drama ANNA; a persistent sports reporter interviews the manager of the Boston Red Sox in an attempt to uncover secrets from his past in John Gray's touching EXTRA INNINGS; a dominated and oppressed wife attempts to reconnect with her younger self and an old friend on the eve of her wedding anniversary in Gayatri Bajpai & Nirav Bhakta's hopeful HALWA; a young mother discovers the line between her past and present has become dangerously blurred in Joshua Levey's shattering INTO THAT GOODNIGHT; a young woman recovering from heroin addiction receives an invitation to her estranged 4-year-old daughter's birthday party in Kathryn Prescott's wrenching JANE; a veterinarian who keeps her depression secret from family and friends until she attempts to take her own life in Yaya (Ilya Simakov)'s heart-breaking and darkly funny KEEP IT QUIET; a mother makes a decision that will change her and her child's life in David Rodrigues' harrowing LEAVING TO LIVE; a grandfather who kindles a relationship with his dying granddaughter through art in Cyrus Neshvad's PORTRAITIST (inspired by O. Henry's "The Last Leaf"); and a furniture store's matriarch who reevaluates her life and fractured family in Jenny Kleiman's SOFA QUEEN. 114mins.



### ANIMATED SHORT FILMS

Saturday, June 27 4:15pm

Journey to fascinating animated worlds with an orphaned fox who finds a lost young boy in Takeshi Yashiro's GON, THE LITTLE FOX; a man and woman who struggle to come to terms with a devastating loss in Will McCormack & Michael Govier's IF ANYTHING HAPPENS I LOVE YOU; a mythopoetic realm is explored in Joanna Priestly's JUNG & RESTLESS; a taxi driver who faces the most important decision of his life in José Luis Quirós & Paco Sáez's MADRID 2120; a man with music as his passion and love as his masterpiece in Farnoosh Abedi's MALAKOUT; a small theater operator and strange cast of characters appear in Jenna Jaillet's THE MECHANICAL DANCER; a boy who finds an old photo album after struggling to understand his grandfather's illness in Gustavo Ribeiro's NAPO; a turtle who challenges a zookeeper by not speaking on command in Aubry Mintz's NOTHING TO SAY; a young girl who creates a world inside her bedroom with eerie 'imaginary' friends in Meirav Haber's SYLVIA; a boy whose only dream is to have a yellow umbrella in Helena Hilario & Mario Pece's UMBRELLA; and a young woman who relives a moment that embodies her relationship with her mother in Isabel Wiegand, Asil Atay, Arden Colley, & Kellie Fay's UNRAVELED. 122mins.



### TEXAS+ SHORT FILMS

Saturday, June 27 7:00pm

Join us for a program of dramatic, comedic, coming-of-age, and science fiction shorts featuring people in peril. In Allison Mabe's A PLACEMENT a teen girl tests the limits of her new foster family; in Benjamin J. Murray's CLOD a mischievous boy spends the day with his father; in Stan Wong's futuristic film DEPARTURE tele-transportation is a popular mode of travel but may not be what travelers are led to believe; in Edgar Arreola & Giovannie Cruz's tension-filled ILLEGAL a jury determines the fate of an undocumented man on trial for a petty crime; in Dano Johnson & Kevin Maher's animated comedy INVADERS FROM ABOVE the American people must choose their fate when aliens invade Earth; in Mark Hosack's comedic thriller MIRACLE DESERT two would-be criminals (JR Bourne and Michael Bailey Smith) buried to their necks in the desert try to outwit a lawman before the real killer arrives; in Maverick Moore's hilariously outrageous MY DINNER WITH WERNER a murder plot is the main dish at a 1987 dinner date; in Sergine Dumais & Bo Price's WICHITA a married woman in bed with her secret lover receives a call from her out-of-town husband asking for a favor; and in Andrew Bennett's WORTHLESS a mistreated, self-aware smartphone demands an apology from her privileged, millennial operator. 106mins.



# USA FILM FESTIVAL 2020

## SUNDAY, June 28th

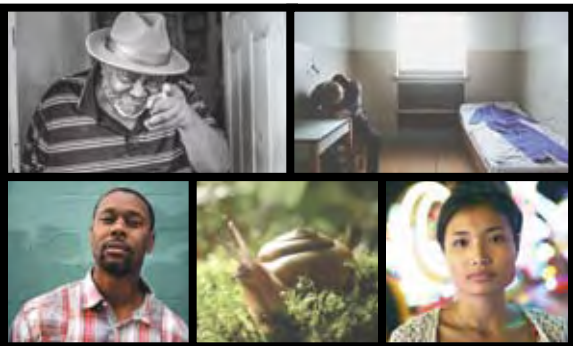


### THE LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (1960)

Sunday, June 28 3:45pm

Join us as we raid the SMU film archives to revisit the low-budget B-movie that inspired a Broadway musical sensation and a hit multimillion-dollar-grossing film adaptation of the musical. Director Roger Corman's black comedy/crime drama cult classic stars Jonathan Haze as Seymour, a nebbish young man working in a skid row floral shop. In his spare time, Seymour develops a new plant species he hopes will bring him fame and fortune. Unfortunately, the mutated plant (named Audrey Junior after Seymour's girlfriend) needs human blood to survive and poor Seymour has no choice but to "Feed me!" as directed. Written by Charles B. Griffith, the film also stars Jackie Joseph and Mel Welles (and a young Jack Nicholson). 75mins.

Screening and 35mm print courtesy of our friends at **The G. William Jones Film & Video Collection at SMU**. USAFF salutes 50 years of preservation work. Proceeds from the first USAFF were used to found the archives.



### NONFICTION SHORT FILMS

Sunday, June 28 4:15pm

This program of fascinating true stories includes Taylor Rees & Renan Ozturk's *ASHES TO ASHES*, which follows the only known living survivor of a lynching and a woman on a mission to memorialize the forgotten 4,000 African Americans lynched during the Jim Crow era; Mathilde Babo & Zoé Rossion's *CELL 364* features a former Stasi prisoner who revisits his cell; Brian Wertheim's *MR. SOMEBODY* follows a former Crips gang member searching for redemption after fourteen years behind bars; Elisabeth Tova Bailey's *THE SOUND OF A WILD SNAIL EATING* takes viewers on an intimate journey of survival and resilience with a paralyzed, bedridden woman and a forest snail companion that lives on her nightstand; and Joel Sandvos' *TENDING CLOUDS* follows a young woman who suffered sex-trafficking during childhood as she returns to Cambodia ten years later to help girls who have endured similar situations. 99mins.

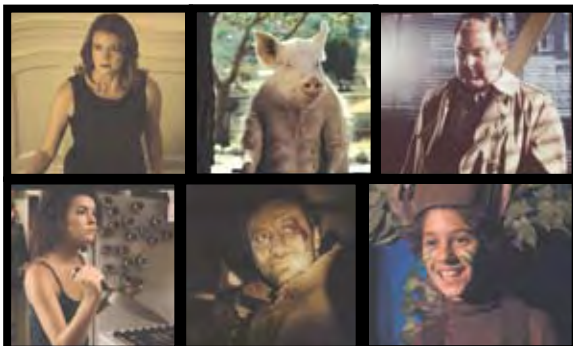


### UNCLE TOM: AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN BLACK CONSERVATIVE

Sunday, June 28 7:00pm

**TexFest/Texas Filmmakers Showcase**

A collection of frank interviews with some of America's most outspoken black conservative thinkers (including Mansfield, Texas small business owner Chad Jackson), this provocative documentary explores the subjects' personal journeys, navigating the world as members of one of America's most misunderstood political and cultural groups, the American Black Conservative. At some point in their lives, each interviewee has been called an "Uncle Tom," accused of kowtowing to the white man and "selling out" because they reject the notions that they are victims and that Black America is a monolith. Featuring interviews with Larry Elder, Robert Woodson, Carol Swain, Allen West, Candace Owens, Brandon Tatum, Herman Cain, Jesse Lee Peterson, Stephen Broden and more. The film is directed by Justin Malone and co-written and produced by Malone, Larry Elder and Ryder Ansell. 105mins.



### NARRATIVE II SHORT FILMS

Sunday, June 28 4:00pm

Join us for a program of unexpected outcomes and comedic shorts. In Michelle Bossy's *MIRACLE BABY*, a congressman's wife enacts terrible revenge on her cheating spouse and shows him who is actually in charge; in Isabelle McNally's *NOT TODAY MISSY* a retired cop at loose ends overhears his neighbor plotting a robbery and decides to take matters into his own hands; in Andrew Patrick Torrez's *SMILEY DEATH FACE* a young girl receives eerie text messages that only use Emojis from an anonymous source; in Georgi M. Unkovski's nerve-racking *STICKER* a man falls into a bureaucratic nightmare that tests his determination to be a responsible father; in Omer Ben-Shachar's *TREE #3* a talented and ambitious immigrant boy leads a revolution on stage after being cast as a background character; and in Yaxiong Shao's *BLUE PIG* a family struggles with the decision to slaughter a genetically modified pig whose highest aspiration is being consumed by humans. 93mins.



### FOR THE LOVE OF RUTLAND

Sunday, June 28 7:15pm

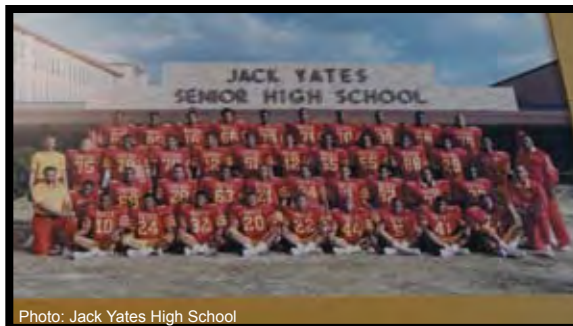
Director/producer Jennifer Maytorena Taylor's *For the Love of Rutland* explores the complex life of a blue-collar New England town as a partial microcosm/mirror of our current national and global reality. An attempt to bring new life to an economically struggling and overwhelmingly white community through refugee resettlement unleashes deep partisan rancor and opens new fissures within the city's small population of 15,000. Resident Stacie, after a lifetime of being invalidated and shamed for her poverty and addiction, emerges as an unexpected and resilient leader in a town divided by class, cultural values, and toxic politics. The intimate, unforgettable film explores the forces racking much of post-industrial and rural America -- including income inequality, the opioid epidemic, falling populations and xenophobia. *For the Love of Rutland* also uncovers passionate civic engagement, intense love of home, and the stories of ordinary people who become extraordinary in their desire to think and act for themselves. 90mins.



### MORE WINNING SHORTS

Sunday, June 28 3:30pm

Join us for a program of narrative, experimental, and documentary short films including Rami Kodeih's *ALINA*, which follows a group of women risking everything to smuggle a friend's infant to safety in a Warsaw Ghetto (inspired by true events); in Siting Yang's *BLUE REVERIE* a young woman grapples with the thought of sacrificing her dignity for the sake of her artistic vision as she strives to create a new persona; in Tae Young Kim's *BYE, CIRCLE* a man who has lived in his own, small circle is challenged by a boy who unexpectedly enters his life; in Kyung Sok Kim's *FURTHEST FROM* an 8-year-old girl clings to what little time she has left with her best friend; in Anastasiya Yevchenko's *IF WE HAD TOMORROW* a soldier imagines the life he might have had; in Marian Carrasquero & Jean-Philippe Dobrin's documentary *IRSE* two expectant mothers from Venezuela seek safety in Colombia; and in Sébastien Pins' *TRACES* a logger and his horse are seen through the eyes of a young girl. 137mins.



### THE GREAT YATES: THURSDAY NIGHT LIGHTS & THE MAGICAL SEASON

Sunday, June 28 7:30pm

**TexFest/Texas Filmmakers Showcase**

Byron Hunter's *The Great Yates* documentary follows the 1985 high school football season of Jack Yates High School of Houston, Texas. Jack Yates, a perennial Texas High School football powerhouse and one of the few remaining historically Black high schools in Texas history, had competed for State Championship honors for years but failed to go all the way. In 1985, the team steamrolled through the State 5A Division in historic fashion, once again making it to the State Championship game. In order to finish their historic season with the title, they would have to beat the reigning kings of Texas high school football, the Odessa Permian Panthers of "Friday Night Lights" fame. *The Great Yates* details the seasons of both the Jack Yates Lions and the Odessa Permian Panthers as they head toward a face-off for the Texas State High School Football Championship and highlights the history of Black high school football in Texas during segregation. The film also features footage of Dallas's great Carter High School football team. 70mins.



# USAFF50

## INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM COMPETITION / JULY 2020



Photo credits: Karen Allen - Michele Eve Sandberg; Jim Beaver - Michael Helms; Bill Butler - Owen Roizman; Rosson Crow - Rose Eichenbaum; Chris Roe - Bart Mastronardi; Brian Van Holt - Fox Photo.

**Karen Allen** is known for her work as an award-winning actor in over 40 feature films including *Animal House*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Starmen*, *Scrooged*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Malcolm X*, *The Perfect Storm*, *The Sandlot*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, and *Year by the Sea*. Her most recent work in *Colewell* was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award, and she just completed working on *Things Heard and Seen* for Netflix and *Unsinkable*. She has worked for 30 years On- and Off- Broadway (“A Summer Day,” “Speaking in Tongues,” “The Glass Menagerie,” “The Monday After the Miracle,” “Extremities,” “As You Like It,” “The Country Girl”) and has done extensive television work over the years. Karen began directing theatre at Bard College at Simon’s Rock ten years ago (where she is still a faculty member for the Theatre Dept.). She continued her work as a director at the Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge, MA (“Moonchildren,” “Extremities,” “Frankie and Johnny in the Clair du Lune,” “Outside Mullingar”) and in NYC with Lucy Thurber’s “Ashville” at the Cherry Lane Theatre. She directed her first short film A TREE. A ROCK. A CLOUD. (based on Carson McCullers’ short story) in 2017. She is a long time member of the Actor’s Studio and is on the Board of the Berkshire International Film Festival.

**Jim Beaver** is well-known for his roles in “Deadwood”, “Supernatural”, “Justified” and “Breaking Bad.” He currently has continuing roles on “Watchmen,” “The Boys,” and “The Ranch,” making him one of Hollywood’s busiest and most popular character actors. Previous television credits include “Days of Our Lives,” “Reasonable Doubts,” “Thunder Alley,” “Harper’s Island,” “Day Break,” and “John from Cincinnati” -- to name a few. In addition to television, Beaver has starred in the films In Country, Crimson Peak, and the upcoming films Nightmare Alley and Blindfire. Other film credits include Joy Ride, Sister Act, Bad Girls, Next, Adaptation, Turner and Hooch, and The Life of David Gale. As a stage actor, he has appeared in plays across the country -- most recently starring in “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” at the Berkshire Theatre Festival and “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” He spent five seasons with the Dallas Shakespeare Festival playing lead roles in “Macbeth” and “Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia” in national tours as well as “The Lion in Winter,” “The Hasty Heart,” “The Rainmaker,” “The Mousetrap,” “The Lark,” and “Charley’s Aunt” in regional productions. Jim is a three-time Los Angeles Dramalogue Critics Award-winner for his plays, “Verdigris,” “Semper Fi,” and “Sidekick.” He was a film critic/columnist for ten years and is the author of two books of film history and is currently working on his third. A Marine Corps veteran of Vietnam and former Chairman of the Board of Theatre West in LA, Jim is a Cherokee-German native of Laramie, Wyoming who was raised in Irving, Texas. He was married to actress Cecily Adams from 1989 until her death in 2004. Currently, he lives in Los Angeles with their daughter Madeline and his wife, singer Sarah Spiegel.

**Diane Baker** is a pioneer in the film and television industry. In a career that has spanned over 50 years, she has received numerous awards and acclaim as an actress, producer and director (including multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations). Diane’s film credits as an actress include *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *The Best of Everything*, *300 Spartans*, *Nine Hours to Rama*, *Mirage*, *Mamie*, *The Prize*, *Strait-Jacket*, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Silence of the Lambs*, and the television films *Inherit the Wind* and *About Sarah*. Additionally, she has appeared in numerous television shows including several episodes of “House, MD,” “Law & Order: SVU,” “ER,” “Unscripted,” as well as “First Monday in October,” “The Blue and the Grey,” and the miniseries “Jackie O.” In addition to acting, Ms. Baker is fascinated with filmmaking; her first effort as a producer came in the self-financed documentary *Ashiana*. As President and CEO of Baker Street Entertainment, she produced *Portrait of Grandpa Doc*, “One of a Kind,” *Never Never Land*, “A Woman of Substance,” and the documentaries *To Climb a Mountain* and *Miracles in the Making*. Currently, she is in pre-production on the series “The Illustrator: America’s Storyteller” with Dennis Powers. Diane has an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the University of Irvine, is a member of AMPAS and BAFTA, serves on the Board of Directors of Roots of Peace, and is on the Advisory Boards of California State Summer School for the Arts and Int. Family Film Festival. She was invited to the Academy of Art University in 2004 to build an acting program for under-graduate and graduate students -- where she is currently Executive Director. She loves mentoring students and is creating a center for post-graduate filmmakers in Los Angeles who wish to make meaningful films that inspire, educate, and entertain.

**Bill Butler** is an artist, innovator, and cinematographer that has marked with more first-time directors than any other cinematographer working today -- directors with the caliber of Francis Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg, William Friedkin, Jack Nicholson, Sylvester Stallone, Bill Paxton, Ivan Reitman, John Badham, Milos Forman, Peter Hyams, Phil Kaufman, and the list goes on. His creativity and ability to understand the director’s vision, interpreting their needs in addition to the actors’ and crew’s, have garnered him two Emmy awards for *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Raid on Entebbe*, an Emmy nomination for “The Thorn Birds,” and an Academy Award nomination for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. Butler has over 80 film credits including *Jaws*, *Grease*, *Child’s Play*, *Sniper*, *Rocky II*, *Rocky III*, *Rocky IV*, *Stripes*, *Big Trouble*, and *Anaconda*. To this day, he remains the only Director of Photography to so successfully make the transition from television to film. He has directed numerous -- some award-winning -- commercials. As an innovator in electronic television, he originated much of the look that dominates television today -- such as the use of the ‘seamless’ background. In 2002, Bill Butler was the recipient of the coveted ASC Lifetime Achievement Award. His special understanding of complex personalities, tremendous compassion for others, and ability to relate to actors, directors, and the crew makes him one of the most sought after cinematographers/Directors of Photography in the motion picture, television and advertising industries. At home, Bill spends his time with his wife, Iris; they have two daughters, Genevieve and Chelsea.

**Rosson Crow** was born in 1982 in Dallas, Texas. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York and a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University. As an artist, her solo gallery exhibitions include Honor Fraser Gallery in Los Angeles, Galerie Nathalie Obadia in Paris, Deitch Projects NYC, and White Cube in London. One-person exhibitions of her work have been presented at MOCA Tuscon, AZ; Musée Régional d’Art Contemporain de Sérignan, France; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH; and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX. Rosson’s work has been included in thematic exhibitions such as “Contemporary Magic: A Tarot Deck Art Project,” The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; “Summer Exhibition,” Royal Academy of Arts, London; “Le Meilleur des Mondes” and “Out of Storage I -- Painters Choose from the Collection,” Musée d’Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg; and “New York Minute,” Macro Future Museum, Rome. In 2016, Rosson’s first short she co-wrote, directed, and designed, MADAME PSYCHOSIS HOLDS A SEANCE, won the USAFF Experimental Jury Award. Currently, Rosson is preparing two exhibitions for Fall 2020 at Galerie Nathalie Obadia in Paris and Over The Influence in Hong Kong.

**Dale Dickey** is a veteran of the stage -- having worked On-Broadway and regional stages across the country -- as well as a veteran of film and television. She has over 50 film credits -- most notably *Winters Bone*, winning the Indie Spirit Award for supporting actress. Other films include *Leave No Trace*, *Hell or High Water*, *Iron Man 3*, *Changeling*, *Super 8*, *The Guilt Trip*, *Domino*, *The Pledge*, and *Small Town Crime*. With over 40 guest star spots on television, she is best known for her recurring work on “Breaking Bad,” “True Blood,” “Justified,” “My Name Is Earl,” “Vice Principals” and “Claws.” She was recently seen in “Unbelievable,” “Room 104,” “Into the Night,” and Hulu’s Holiday Anthology series “Pooka.” Born and raised in Knoxville, TN, she trained with the Clarence Brown Company at the University of Tennessee, receiving an honorary MFA. She continued her training while living in New York, London and Chicago and currently resides in Lala Land.

Best-known to television audiences as ‘Roz Doyle’ in the Emmy-winning comedy series “Frasier,” **Peri Gilpin** has most recently been seen on “Family Reunion,” “Broad City,” “Scorpion,” and in the film *Mr. Robinson*. In addition, she recently wrapped two independent feature films: *Rushed* and *We Broke Up*. Gilpin’s past television credits include roles in “Masters of Sex,” “Men at Work,” “Make It or Break It,” “CSI,” “Modern Family,” “Law and Order,” “Hot in Cleveland,” and “Desperate Housewives.” She has appeared in the films *How to Kill Your Neighbor’s Dog* and *Spring Forward*. Gilpin’s theatre credits include 5 summers with the Williamstown Theatre in Massachusetts. Most recently, she portrayed ‘Irene’ in “Slow Food” at The Dorset Playhouse and ‘Virginia Butley’ in “Native Gardens” at The Old Globe Theater. She starred as ‘Alexa Vere de Vere’ in “As Bees in Honey Drown” in the Off-Broadway Lucille Lortell Theatre and at the Pasadena Playhouse and enjoyed a successful run in “Matthew Modine Saves the Alpacas” at the Geffen Theatre. As a child, Gilpin enrolled in the Dallas Theater Center; she went on to study drama at The University of Texas at Austin and at the British-American Academy in London. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and twin daughters.

**Bill Haller** is an 18-year veteran animator whose career has encompassed a wide variety of work ranging from commercials, short films, animated features, and VFX films in which he has acted as both an animator and animation supervisor. He has been responsible for creating the visual style and development work for films including *Fantastic Four*, *Hotel Transylvania*, and *Book of Life*. Along with contributing to the work for many awards in advertising work, he was also nominated for a VES award for ‘outstanding character animation in an animated film’ for ‘Dracula’ in *Hotel Transylvania*. Additional animation credits include *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks 2*, *Smurfs (1 and 2)*, *I am Legend*, *Rock Dog*, *Blade Trinity*, *Scooby Doo 2*, *Open Season (1, 2 and 3)*, *Surfs Up*, *Monster House*, *Prince Caspian*, *Cats and Dogs 2*, *Speed Racer*, *Beowulf*, and *Son of the Mask*. Most recently, he served as Animation Supervisor on the new Warner Bros. title *SCOOB!* through Reel FX Creative Studios.

**Ron Judkins** is a motion picture production sound mixer, writer, and director. He is the winner of two Academy Awards, Best Sound for *Jurassic Park* and *Saving Private Ryan* and received nominations for his sound work on *Schindler’s List* and *Lincoln*. As a production sound mixer, he has over 60 film credits to his name -- including his most recent work on *The Lion King* and *Mulan*. As a writer/director, his work includes the feature films *Finding Neighbors* (distributed by Strand Releasing) and *The Hi-Line* (which was acquired by Showtime Television).

**Sandra Luckow** began her filmmaking career as an undergraduate at Yale University where her BA thesis film, *Sharp Edges*, a documentary about Tonya Harding’s first National Championship, won a Louis Sudler Prize. It was the visual bedrock for the feature *I, Tonya* and can be seen on Hulu. After Yale, Luckow received her MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts Film School. Currently, her student films are archived at the Yale Film Study Center. Luckow has worked in casting at major Hollywood studios, was an associate director at “One Life to Live,” shot reality television, and made documentaries that have taken her across the globe. From 2002-2014, Sandra was the director of production at the Yale Summer Film Institute. In 2018, she released the feature film *That Way Madness Lies...* -- the story of her brother’s descent with paranoid schizophrenia and the failed attempt to help him due to the broken mental health system -- which was named “One of the Best 11 Documentaries of 2018.” Presently, she is in production on the documentary *Danger* and teaches both documentary and narrative film production at Barnard College. She is a member of The Directors’ Guild of America, New York Women in Film and Television, and the International Documentary Association.

With an extensive list of credits, **Ralph Macchio** is best known for his performances in *The Outsiders*, *My Cousin Vinny*, and the title role in *The Karate Kid* and its successors *The Karate Kid Part II* and *The Karate Kid Part III*. Other feature film credits include *Crossroads*, *Distant Thunder*, *Too Much Sun*, *Naked in New York*, *A Good Night to Die*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Undead*, *Up the Academy*, *Hitchcock*, *Lost Cat Corona*, and the television movie *The Last Pow? The Bobby Garwood Story* (which gained him critical acclaim early in his career). Macchio’s start in television came as a series regular in “Eight is Enough.” Additional television credits include Sony Pictures Television and YouTube Premium’s “Cobra Kai” (where he serves as a Co-Executive Producer), “The Deuce,” a two-season arc on “Ugly Betty,” and popular turns on “Entourage” and “Headcase.” In 2011, Macchio became an instant fan-favorite on “Dancing with the Stars” where he enjoyed a successful run. As a filmmaker/producer/writer, Macchio wrote/directed the short film LOVE TRI BROTHER, which is available on HBO and iTunes. He is Executive Producer of the TV Docu-Series “American Gypsies,” and his most recent film, *Across Grace Alley*, which he wrote and directed, has garnered high praises and is available on Netflix. On the NYC stage, Ralph made his Broadway debut starring in the sold-out Joseph Papp production of “Cuba and His Teddy Bear” and received critical acclaim starring in Des McAniff’s National Tour of the Broadway musical-comedy revival “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.” Off-Broadway, Macchio originated the role of Calvin in “Magic Hands Freddy” and held roles in “Only Kidding” and the Abingdon Theatre Company production of “A Room of My Own.”

Manager, writer, award-winning producer & director **Chris Roe** entered the entertainment business in 1996, after starting his talent management agency, Chris Roe Management. Since then, his company has become well respected in the entertainment industry, managing clients such as George A. Romero (until his passing), Clive Barker, Bruce Davison, Meg Foster, Monte Markham, Mariette Hartley, Courtney Gains, Judy Geeson, and the legendary Malcolm McDowell -- to name a few. In 2007, he co-wrote/produced/directed the award-winning documentary feature, *One for the Fire*. He also produced and co-directed a television pilot, “Soul of the City,” and has acted as producer or executive producer on films such as *Suing the Devil*, *The Employer*, and *Bereave*. In 2018, he launched his production company, Tea Time Productions, Inc. CEMETERY TALES: A TALE OF TWO SISTERS (which screened at USAFF) was the company’s first production. A TALE OF TWO SISTERS has won over 40 awards and received over 40 nominations worldwide. Currently, Roe has multiple projects in development and several properties optioned. Roe is a proud member of the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences, The Producers Guild of America, and a board member of the George A. Romero Foundation (GARF). He resides with his family in Los Angeles, CA.

**Stephen Tobolowsky** has appeared in over 250 movies and television shows. He is best known for roles in *Groundhog Day*, *Memento*, “Silicon Valley,” “Californication,” “Glee,” “The Goldbergs,” and Norman Lear’s new “One Day at a Time” for PopTV. He co-wrote *True Stories* with David Byrne and Beth Henley. He wrote and performed *Stephen Tobolowsky’s Birthday Party* that premiered at the HBO Comedy Festival and his concert film *The Primary Instinct* (which screened at USAFF in 2018). Stories from his notable podcast “The Tobolowsky Files” have been heard across the country on NPR and PRI radio stations and can be heard anytime on Slashfilm.com and iTunes. His first book of stories, “The Dangerous Animals Club,” was published by Simon and Schuster in 2012. His second book, “My Adventures with God,” was released in April 2017.

**Brian Van Holt** can currently be seen starring as Detective Cade Ward in the new hit show “Deputy.” He is well-known for his role as Bobby Cobb on the comedy series “Cougar Town” and as Ray on the cable thriller “The Bridge.” Van Holt has also starred in “John from Cincinnati” and on the sci-fi series “Threshold.” Additional television credits include roles in “Spin City,” “Homocide,” “Sex and the City,” “Burn Notice,” “Sons of Anarchy,” and “Entourage.” Van Holt’s film credits include *Basic*, *House of Wax*, *Windtalkers*, *Black Hawk Down*, *S.W.A.T.*, *Wild*, and *Den of Thieves*. Van Holt graduated from UCLA with a degree in sociology and resides in Los Angeles when not filming.

# SCHEDULE & TICKET INFO.

## ANGELIKA FILM CENTER

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24	THURSDAY JUNE 25	FRIDAY JUNE 26	SATURDAY JUNE 27	SUNDAY JUNE 28
			<b>3:00pm</b> High School Shorts  <b>4:00pm</b> Ella Fitzgerald  <b>4:15pm</b> Animated Shorts  <b>4:30pm</b> Student Shorts	<b>3:45pm</b> The Little Shop of Horrors  <b>3:30pm</b> More Winning Shorts  <b>4:00pm</b> Narrative II Shorts  <b>4:15pm</b> Nonfiction Shorts
<b>7:00pm</b> 100% Wolf  <b>7:15pm</b> Harold and Maude  <b>7:30pm</b> Airplane!	<b>7:00pm</b> Some Kind of Heaven  <b>7:15pm</b> House of Hummingbird  <b>7:30pm</b> Out Stealing Horses	<b>6:45pm</b> Collective  <b>7:00pm</b> LGBTQ Shorts  <b>7:15pm</b> A Call to Spy  <b>7:30pm</b> Summerland  <b>7:45pm</b> Tesla	<b>7:00pm</b> Texas Shorts  <b>7:15pm</b> Radium Girls  <b>7:30pm</b> Narrative I Shorts	<b>7:00pm</b> Uncle Tom  <b>7:15pm</b> For the Love of Rutland  <b>7:30pm</b> The Great Yates

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USA FILM FESTIVAL

## Ticket Info

With respect for the safety of our guests, several changes regarding ticketing and seating will be observed for this year's program. Please see notes below.

In celebration of the Festival's 50th Anniversary, tickets for all programs are **FREE** but all tickets must be reserved in advance by telephone.

**Safety Note:** No tickets will be available at the door; You will not be allowed to enter the Angelika complex without an advance reservation.

Tickets are available via advance reservations only. (There will be no ticket sales desk at the theater. Special instructions will be provided by telephone when you call to request tickets.)

## TICKET REQUEST LINE \*

**214-821-6300**

Phone lines open Noon to 5:00pm daily beginning on dates noted below.

All tickets are available via telephone in advance of the program ONLY; No tickets will be available at the theater during the event.

- \* Tickets will be available to USAFF Members beginning JUNE 15th
- \* Tickets will be available to the General Public beginning JUNE 18th

## Seating & Safety Info

- **Contact-less Event** - There will be no hand-off of tickets, etc.; All admission will be via advance telephone reservations ONLY.
- **Facemasks** are required for all guests.
- **Seating** for all programs will be **limited** to 1/4 of auditorium capacity.
- **Social distancing seating** will be in place per the Angelika Theater's protocols.

## Theater Location

**All programs will take place at the Angelika Film Center / Dallas**  
5321 E. Mockingbird Lane at Central Expressway

## Membership

To become a Member of the Festival and receive **FREE** screenings every month, send us an email request for a membership brochure at [usafilmfest@aol.com](mailto:usafilmfest@aol.com)

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214-821-FILM [www.usafilmfestival.com](http://www.usafilmfestival.com)

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