



MY PSYCHEDELIC LOVE STORY To Close AFI FEST 2020 Presented By AUDI

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Passes available September 28th!

The 34th edition of [AFI FEST presented by Audi](#) will close with the World Premiere of SHOWTIME® Documentary Films' MY PSYCHEDELIC LOVE STORY. The film is directed by Academy Award®-winning director Errol Morris and explores the dark side of the Timothy Leary saga, and how his doomed relationship with Joanna Harcourt-Smith put the final nail in the coffin of the 1960s counterculture. And, did the High Priest of LSD, become a narc in 1974 seemingly abandoning the millions he urged to turn on, tune in and drop out. Was his "perfect love" Joanna Harcourt-Smith a government pawn, as suggested by Allen Ginsberg? Or was she simply a rich, beautiful, young woman out for the adventure of a lifetime? Morris and Harcourt-Smith reexamine this chaotic period of her life and explore the mystery of the Leary saga: his period of exile, reimprisonment, and subsequent cooperation with the authorities. The film is inspired by Harcourt-Smith's memoir, TRIPPING THE BARDO WITH TIMOTHY LEARY: MY PSYCHEDELIC LOVE STORY.

The World Premieres of PINK SKIES AHEAD, THE REAGANS and REALLY LOVE, in addition to THE FATHER, FIREBALL and A SUITABLE BOY will screen as Special Presentations at this year's festival. Celebrate the diversity of great cinematic storytelling in our Special Presentations and experience new stories and new voices at this year's AFI FEST. From first-time directors and established masters to fiction and nonfiction to series, these outstanding projects films affirm the vitality and creativity of our resilient film community.

Special Presentations

THE FATHER – Living alone in London and nearing 80 years old, Anthony (Anthony Hopkins) has

refused another nurse that his daughter Anne (Olivia Colman) has set up for him. Exuberant and independent, Anthony has struggled with his memory beginning to slip away. Anne announces she is moving to Paris with a new boyfriend, but later in the living room Anthony sees a stranger claiming to be Anne's husband. Who is this man? Confusion sets in. Academy Award®-winner Hopkins delivers a brilliant performance of a man with dementia, creating a powerful cinematic experience of memory and loss. Based on his award-winning play, Florian Zeller has crafted a moving and insightful portrait of a cruel disease and the heartbreak it brings.

FIREBALL – Leave it to Werner Herzog to interrupt a world-renowned planetary scientist who has just made the simple yet astonishing statement that, “We are all stardust. Every element in our body was synthesized in other stars before it got here.” Herzog waves his hand in front of the camera. The scientist looks momentarily perplexed and then Herzog blurts out: “I think I am not stardust. I am Bavarian!” After a pregnant pause, the scientist bursts into laughter. It is a quintessentially Herzogian moment. In this fascinating and delightful scientific, cultural and philosophical treasure hunt, Herzog and his co-director, the volcanologist Clive Oppenheimer, crisscross the globe, seeking answers to the great mysteries locked inside the flaming balls of interplanetary debris that have hurled themselves at our defenseless planet for billions of years.

PINK SKIES AHEAD – Los Angeles, 1998. After dropping out of college and moving back home to live with her parents, Winona is diagnosed with an anxiety disorder. Skeptical of her doctor's opinion — she hasn't had a panic attack after all — Winona carries on with her wild lifestyle. Only when things begin to truly unravel around her, does she reluctantly decide to see a therapist and face her truths. Jessica Barden gives a magnetic performance as the passionate and struggling Winona. The directorial debut film of Kelly Oxford, based on her essay “No Real Danger,” PINK SKIES AHEAD is a powerful and empathetic portrait of mental health often hidden beneath the surface.

REALLY LOVE – Set in a gentrifying Washington, DC, a rising Black artist, Isaiah (Kofi Siriboe), spends most of his days pouring his heart into his paintings but still struggles to find his place in the prestigious and competitive art world. At a gallery show, Stevie (Yootha Wong-Loi-Sing), an impressive and intelligent law student, catches his eye. A chance encounter is one thing, but the stars align and they meet again, leading to a whirlwind romance. When both Isaiah and Stevie hit crossroads in their careers, they are forced to consider if their relationship is a love for a season or a love for a lifetime. In director Angel Kristi Williams's debut feature, she delivers a poignant look at the sacrifices we make for careers and life-changing relationships. This well-crafted script by Felicia Pride and Williams is complemented by an impeccable soundtrack and incredible art.

THE REAGANS – Directed by Matt Tyrnauer, this four-part Showtime series focuses on the rise and reign of America's ultimate power couple: Ronald and Nancy Reagan. Chock full of evocative archival footage and illuminating contemporary interviews, THE REAGANS asserts Nancy's central role in her husband's career, shines a light on the darker aspects of the Reagans' climb to power and provides a revelatory perspective on how the political tactics used in the '60s and '70s are a progenitor of our current national politics.

A SUITABLE BOY – 1951. In a newly independent India, passionate literature student Lata Mehra defies tradition, and her meddling mother's wish to choose her a husband. Torn between family duty and the excitement of romance, Lata embarks on a journey of love and heartache as three very different men try to win her heart. Also threatening to break with tradition is the charming but

directionless Maan Kapoor, whose romantic entanglements begin to jeopardize his father's political career. As Lata and Maan attempt to shape their futures, India too is coming of age. Only a few years after independence from British colonial rule, tensions are high as its people prepare to campaign and vote in their first democratic general election. A Lookout Point production for the BBC, internationally distributed by BBC Studios.

Stay tuned for more on this year's AFI FEST sponsored by Audi films!

Until next time, I'm looking forward to seeing you at the movies.



Larry dreaming



*News release from AFI

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1. television

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1. #AFIFEST

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