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Bicoastal Film Festival Juggernaut, Dances With Films NYC 2024, Rolls Out Lineup

Description

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Dances With Films â??
NYC

Dances With Films just rolled out an ambitious film lineup for the 3rd New York City edition of the bicoastal film festival juggernaut. December 5-8 will be packed with an incredible number of feature-length narratives, documentaries, pilots, and shorts making their world, North American, and US

premieres as DWF showcases those new works as part of the only indie film-focused film festival with a foothold in both Los Angeles and The Big Apple. Evan Oppenheimerâ??s ***Peas and Carrots*** is set to make its world premiere on Opening Night, and Christina Elioupolosâ?? ***Hereâ??s Yianni!*** is the Closing Night selection.



Peas and Carrots, Hereâ??s Yianni!

Among DWF NYCâ??s lineup of 141 films, including 22 narrative and midnight features, 9 documentary features, 18 television and streaming pilots, and 92 short films (76 combined narrative and midnight, with 16 documentaries). More than half of those films will be making their world, North American or US premieres during the four-day film event with all of the screenings taking place at Regal Union Square (850 Broadway).



Itch

In addition to Oppenheimerâ??s *Peas and Carrots*, additional feature length films making their world premieres are Liam Le Guillouâ??s *A Cursed Man*, Victoria Kupchinetskyâ??s *Calico Rebellion*, Jason Mendozaâ??s *Good Friday*, Bari Kingâ??s *Itch!,* Mikaela Shwerâ??s *The Kids Are Not Alright*, Dom Cutrupiâ??s *Lola Dust*, William Tyler Wisemanâ??s *Moonwater*, Paul Bickelâ??s *One Happy Place*, Jarrett Jungâ??s *Sergeant Pickle Breath And The Rooftop Warriors*, and Kristen Hansenâ??s *Sonny Boy*. Andrew Bellâ??s *Bleeding*, and Howard Goldbergâ??s *Double Exposure* will make their North American Premieres, and Nicola Roseâ??s *Magnetosphere* will make its US Premiere at DWF NYC.



THE FUN IN FUNNY

DWF is also noted as being one of the current wave of film festivals embracing, promoting and platforming pilots with TV and streaming ambitions. And plenty of those will be making their debuts as well, including Sergio Camachoâ??s *United Crafts Of America,* Victoria Myersâ?? *A Legend Is Hatched: I Become Famousâ?¦ In My Own Mind*, Lucy Hirschfeldâ??s *Dropped*, Christine Lakinâ??s *The Fun In Funny*, Christopher Gerson and Julie Kramerâ??s *Gasbag*, Dan Jonesâ?? *Hive*, Olivia Lambertâ??s *Like Comment Subscribe*, Serena Schulerâ??s *Makeshift Society*, Karl Janisseâ??s *Passage*, Ana Bretonâ??s *Rat Czar*, and Ruthie Marantzâ??s *Raging Doll*.



RAGING DOLL

While the LA version of the film festival has been around for close to three decades, it seemingly has only recently started to get acceptance as one of L.A.s and now NYCâ??s top fests debuting new work and putting great emphasis on putting new filmmakers at the front of the line (so to speak) ahead of films already slated to be on Amazon, Netflix, Apple +, or some other network service. And it has managed to do that while filling its theaters and maybe having the most active theater lobbies in between screenings on record.
Showcasing brand new work by filmmakers on both coasts, most of which have yet to be seen or picked up for distribution has become a hallmark for Dances With Filmsâ?? Founders and Directors Leslee Scallon and Michael Trent.

From the press release announcing the DWF NYC lineup, Scallon and Trent said, â??We take the responsibility of discovering these films and filmmakers thus providing an opportunity for them to get distribution and representation furthering their careers. Just as New York Cityâ??s energy and excitement has been a driving force for us, we embrace the absolute joy of seeing so much great work on the big screen for the very first time and helping our ever-growing family of filmmakers take their next steps toward realizing their dreams under the spotlight of this great city. We hope the audiences feel it the same way we do.â•

Thursday, December 5 will feature the World Premiere Opening Night presentation of DWF alumni Evan Oppenheimerâ??s *Peas and Carrots*. Oppenheimerâ??s film *The Auteur Theory* screened at DWF in 1999 with an early appearance by Natasha Lyonne. *Peas and Carrots* follows a teenage girl in New York who is the child of a couple that were one-hit wonders in the 90s. She also travels in a bizarre alternate reality, where everybody only says three words: â??Peas and Carrotsâ•. Naturally, her family forms a new band and start rocking out together. The film stars Kirrilee Berger, Jordan Bridges, and Amy Carlson, and the local NYC-based production also includes the involvement of numerous legendary New York musicians. Members of the Ramones, Sonic Youth, Richard Hell and the Voidoids, and Guster all contributed to this movie, both with new music in the score and (in some cases) with appearances on screen.

Closing Night on Sunday, December 8, will feature Christina Eliapolousâ?? *Hereâ??s Yianni!*. The whimsical and heartwarming comedy drama stars Joe Cortese, as the title character, and Julia Ormond as a longtime couple who run a beachside family diner. Yianni develops dementia and slips into a parallel realm, believing he is the host of a late-night talk show with the dinerâ??s staff and customers as guest stars. Meanwhile, his wife tries to hide his illness from their coworkers and best friends (Kevin Pollak and Rosanna Arquette). When a woman and her seven-year-old son move in across the street, Yianni becomes convinced that the young boy is the son they lost 30 years ago and after he escapes home and runs into the boy, Yianni must find a moment of clarity so he can navigate them both back to the diner and their worried families. The film also stars Eric Roberts and Sofia Vassileva.

Additional narrative feature films making their world premieres are Jason Mendozaâ??s drama *Good Friday*, about poor street kids who find themselves himself at odds with loan sharks and the neighborhoodâ??s street tyrant, after a botched house robbery. Dom Cutrupiâ??s *Lola Dust* focuses on an aspiring actress who finds herself the subject of a deep fake campaign featuring her image and thrusting her unwillingly into a threatening world hidden in plain sight. William Tyler Wisemanâ??s *Moonwater* follows the efforts of a man, battling his own alcoholism while trying to revive his late fatherâ??s old, dilapidated moonshine still deep in the woods for one final batch. The Midnight category is led by the world premiere of Bari Kingâ??s survival tale *Itch!* in which a horrific outbreak transforms

its victims into self-destructive shells. A widower grappling with grief, takes refuge in a seemingly safe department store with his estranged young daughter, Olivia. However, their sanctuary quickly becomes a nightmarish trap, as the infection quickly closes in on them.

Making its North American premiere is Howard Goldbergâ??s *Double Exposure*. The film features the dramatic collision of the past and present, as a man, in a life and death struggle with himself, combats his guilt over what happened to his first love in a #MeToo tragedy. DWF alumni (*Goodbye, Petrushka* 2022) Nicola Rose returns with her second feature *Magnetosphere*, which will be making its US premiere. At the center of the film is a 13-year-old girl with a rare ability to see sound and hear color. Her attempts to keep it a secret are shaken up when her dad mounts a ramshackle theatre production which introduces her to a host of influential new people.

Documentaries making their world premieres at DWF NYC are Liam Le Guillouâ??s *A Cursed Man* in which the filmmakerâ??s exploration of the world of witchcraft and the occult, leads him to have a curse placed on him forcing him to question the nature of reality and belief. Victoria Kupchinetskyâ??s *Calico Rebellion* looks at a family of farmers in the Catskill Mountains whose ancestors staged the Anti-Rent War 200 years ago, changing the cause of American history, and paving way to the anti-slavery movement and to Abraham Lincolnâ??s new political party. Mikaela Shwerâ??s *The Kids Are Not Alright* looks at the abuse suffered at the hands of the Troubled Teen Industry, an unregulated network of for-profit institutions claiming to fix wayward teenagers.



THE FUN IN FUNNY

The television, web series pilots, and episodics also have a healthy number of world premieres. Those include Victoria Myersâ?? *A Legend Is Hatched: I Become Famousâ?¦ In My Own Mind* about an unflappable gal-about-town and her madcap quest to get her own television show. Lucy Hirschfeldâ??s *Dropped* follows a struggling actor who gets dropped by his agent in the middle of teaching a master

class to a group of children at his old Catholic Middle School. Christine Lakinâ??s *The Fun In Funny* focuses on a stand-up comedian inspired to take the mic one more time due to an unlikely friendship with a young girl. Christopher Gerson and Julie Kramer are the directors of *Gasbag*, a coming-of-age comedy series about a lovable recently-out overtalker discovering what (and who) he really wantsâ?¦ thanks to a new shakeup at work and his unexpected candidacy as President of his Condo association. Dan Jonesâ?? *Hive* finds five strangers discovering theyâ??re trapped inside a tacky, low-budget sitcom and watched by an unseen audience ever hungry for entertainment. Sabina Olivia Lambertâ??s *Like Comment Subscribe* features two BFFs and top influencers in Toronto faced with the challenge of helping a vegan leather bag company recover from a trans-exclusionary scandal.



RAGING DOLL

Additional pilots making their world premieres are Serena Schulerâ??s comedy series pilot *Makeshift Society* which is a female take on the tech industry via a young womanâ??s effort to build her own start up after being fired by her tech bro boss. Set in 1914, Karl Janisseâ??s *Passage* focuses on a shipâ??s stowaway who becomes entangled in a 100,000-year-old secret fueled by a mysterious entity infecting the minds of the shipâ??s crew. Ruthie Marantzâ??s *Raging Doll* is centered on a delusional millennial from The Bronx planning to get in the ring with a junior boxing champion. Ana Bretonâ??s comedy *Rat Czar* follows New Yorkâ??s newly appointed director of rodent mitigation and her staff as they attempt to win an unwinnable war against both the Mayor of New York and the cityâ??s growing rat population. Sergio Camachoâ??s *United Crafts Of America* debut episode also features New York City, but in a much more pleasurable angle as it provides an intimate look into Americaâ??s most vibrant craft beer cities, uncovering the countryâ??s most innovative breweries and the passionate people behind them.



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Dances With Films NYC will also feature the world premieres of several short films. Narrative shorts debuting include Dustin Cookâ??s *Artificial*, Jack Campbellâ??s *Baby*, Jesse Cowellâ??s *B!Tch Iâ??m Early (B.I.E.)*, Fraser Clubbâ??s *Blue Plaque*, Tommy Heffernanâ??s *Body Buddies*, Timur Guseynovâ??s *Brooklyn*, Sara Newtonâ??s *Bullet Proof*, Paula Blanco PÃ©rezâ??s *Canchas*, Daniel Caseyâ??s *Charon*, Dylan Levineâ??s *The Clock Painter*, Will Crouseâ??s *The Coder*, Grant Raunâ??s *Composure*, Misha Gankinâ??s *Dead Pet Shark*, Daniel Rochaâ??s *El Secreto*, Megan Robinsonâ??s *Have We Met?*, Taylor Anthony Millerâ??s *Itâ??s Not Youâ?¦ Itâ??s The Aliens!*, Elizabeth Katzâ??s *Role Play*, Emily Couttsâ?? *Rosebud*, Juan Zuloaga Eslaitâ??s *Salve, Anima*, Sofia Laneâ??s *Sid The Kid*, Andrew Lucidoâ??s *Sky*, Hunter Woelfleâ??s *Sweet & Crunchy*, Emma Elizabeth Steigerâ??s

Wait To Tell Mother, Shawn Dempewolffâ??s *We Good?*, and Nate Hapkeâ??s *Why Are You Like This?*.

Other notable narrative shorts are Felipe Vargasâ?? *Hive,* which stars Xochitl Gomez (*Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness, Dancing with the Stars)* as a teenager forced to confront an insidious entity hidden among a group of children including a girl sheâ??s babysitting, and Mitch Yapkoâ??s *Watching Walter*, which stars Stephen Tobolowsky portraying Holocaust survivor-turned watchmaker Wladyslaw â??Walterâ?• Wojnas.

Documentary shorts making their world premieres include Aisha X. Elliott, Cheryl Wilkins, Kathy Boudin, and Jake Ratnerâ??s *Degrees Of Freedom*, Simantini Chakraborty, and Godfrey Reggioâ??s *The Original Badass*, and Justin Wheelonâ??s *Tides Of Change*. Midnight shorts making their big debut on the New York â??stageâ?• include Luke Paronâ??s *Arachnid*, Alan Ariasâ?? *Walter*, and Vinnie Hoganâ??s *Werewolf Scouts*.

For more information about the Dances With Films NYC film lineup, events, passes, and tickets, go to: https://danceswithfilms.com/.

Category

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