

NHdocs: The Third Annual New Haven Documentary Film Festival
June 2-12, 2016
The Schedule

All screenings at the Whitney Humanities Center Auditorium, 53 Wall Street, New Haven, CT. unless otherwise noted.

DAY 1: Thursday, June 2nd

7 pm: *Midsummer in Newtown* (Lloyd Kramer, 2016) 81 min **A Connecticut Premiere!**

In the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, a theater production comes to Newtown, Connecticut, seeking to cast local children in a rock-pop version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The project is aimed at healing the hearts and minds of a community devastated by the school shooting that occurred just over one year prior to production.

Followed by a Q & A with director Lloyd Kramer.

Day 2: Friday, June 3rd

7 pm: *Be a Man* (Ray Harrington, 2015) 99 min

Follows comedian Ray Harrington on his journey to discover what it means to be a Modern Man before the birth of his son.

Followed by a Q & A with CT-born and raised director and star Ray Harrington.

NHdocs After Dark

9:15: *VHS Massacre* (Tom Seymour and Ken Powell, 2016) 72 min

Examines the rise and fall of physical media from the origin of film all the way through the video store era into digital media, focusing on B-movie and cult films.

Followed by a Q & A with Tom Seymour and Ken Powell.

11:00 pm: *Skin of the Game: The Raven Riley Story* (David Pilot, 2016) 80 min

Sarah was just the girl next door --but to millions of fans on the worldwide web she was Raven Riley. *Skin of the Game* follows her rollercoaster ride of fortune, fame and the unexpected consequences of an American dream-come-true. **A**

World Premiere!

Followed by a Q & A with New Haven-based director David Pilot.

DAY 3: Saturday, June 4th

11 am: Panel on Guerilla Filmmaking. Rm 208, Whitney Humanities Center
with Gorman Bechard

An Afternoon @ the New Haven Free Public Library, 133 Elm St.

1:30 pm: Black Panthers: A New Haven Perspective

Mayday (May 1st Media, 1970) A Treasure from the Yale Film Archive. – 23 min

"Next Question": The May Day 1970 Oral History Project (Elihu Rubin and Elena Oxman, 2002) 30 min

Call it counter programming but when Stanley Nelson's *Black Panthers:*

Vanguard of the Revolution (2015) dropped New Haven from his epic

documentary, NHdocs went to the archives to reassert a part of that history.

With Elihu Rubin and former Black Panther George Edwards leading the Q & A.

3:15 pm: Coffee

3:30 pm: A Program of Popular Shorts

A Popular Stranger (2016) 14 min

I am an Art Therapist (2016) 14 min

Legions of the New North (2016) 11 min

Stone by Stone (2016) 18 min

Celling Your Soul (Joni Siani, 2016) 49 min

Approaches the contemporary issue of digital dependency by listening to those who were the first to be socialized in the digital landscape. How do the Millennials really feel about the world of 24/7 connectivity and what can we learn from them?

Followed by a Q & A with Joni Siani and other filmmakers.

7:00 pm: Miss Sharon Jones! (Barbara Kopple, 2015) 90 min

Two-time Academy Award winner Barbara Kopple (*Harlan County, USA*) follows R&B queen *Sharon Jones* over the course of an eventful year, as she battles a cancer diagnosis and struggles to hold her band the Dap-Kings together.

Possible Q & A with Filmmaker Barbara Kopple.

9:00 pm: Off Stage: Damon St. Cloud (2016) 16 min

BMAD (Anna Marra, 2016) -32 min **US Premiere!**

A student of Dante and life, Anna Mara immerses herself in the monthly gatherings in Bethany (Ct.) of Music And Dance organized by Billy Fischer.

To be Followed by Live Music from Billy Fischer and Friends.

DAY 4: Sunday, June 5th:

12 noon: Yale Today: A Student Triptych

Searching for Chekhov (Lara Panah-Izadi, 2015) 39 min

100 Days without Vasya (Anastasia Kostina, 2016) 32 min

We Out Here: A Film About Race at Yale (Alex Defroand, 2016) 30 min

At a time when Yale students have been in the national news, these filmmakers offer behind-the-scenes looks at their lives and concerns.

Followed by a Q & A with the filmmakers.

2 pm: Middle School Shorts

2:20 pm: Coffee

2:30 pm: Student Shorts

Speed Fade (Clark Burnett, 2016) 13 min - Yale University

Samuel Huntington (Allison Butler, 2016) 8 min - Eastern CT State University

Resistance (Gianna Llewellyn, 2016) 4 min Fairfield University

Eleven Years (Madeline Harris, 2016) 8 min - Connecticut College

The Movement (Shawn Antoine II, 2016) 14 min – University of Rhode Island

Love When It Rains: Behind the Scenes (Cooper Smithers, 2016) 5 min -Western CT State University

Art of the Heart (Andrew Sauer, Brynn Kelly, and others, 2016) 21 min – Quinnipiac University

Following Amy (Brianna O’Grady, 2015) 16 min –Western CT State University

Gisela's Legacy (Jamie McNeill, 2016) 40 min - Avon High School

Followed by a Q & A with the filmmakers.

5:30 pm: Student Awards Ceremony

7: 00 pm *The Champions* (Darcy Dennett, 2015) 90 min

All odds were stacked against the pit bulls rescued from NFL star quarterback Michael Vick’s notorious dogfighting ring. Forced to fight for their lives, they were considered so dangerous both PETA and the Humane Society wanted them euthanized. But no one could have predicted how the dogs would change the lives of those who risked everything to save them.

Followed by a discussion on animal law with representative Diana Urban and Prosecutor Joseph LaMotta. A Benefit for the New Haven Animal Shelter.

DAY 5: Monday, June 6th

7: 00 pm: *Ireland's Great Hunger and the Irish Diaspora* (Rebecca Abbott & Liam O’Brien, 2015) 50 min

Explores the historical and socio-political circumstances leading to potato failure, mass starvation and death in Ireland, 1847-52. Narrated by actor Gabriel Byrne, the film includes famine scholars, descendants of famine survivors, emigrants to Quebec, and “Earl Grey” orphan women who emigrated to Australia.

8:00 pm: *Letter from Italy, 1944: A New American Oratorio.* (Karyl Evans, 2015) 50 min

Nominated for 2 Emmy Awards this year, the documentary takes viewers on a journey of the creation of a musical drama written by two sisters, Sarah Meneely-Kyder and Nancy Meneely, about their father, Dr. John K. Meneely Jr., a Yale-trained doctor who served as a medic in the elite 10th Mountain Division during World War II and who returned home to his family with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Followed by a Q & A with the filmmakers

DAY 6: Tuesday, June 7th

All Evening Events at Café Nine, 250 State St, New Haven, CT

7:00 pm: Doors Open at Café Nine

8:00 pm: *Who is Lydia Loveless?* (Gorman Bechard, 2016) 110 min

An introduction of sorts to a musical life in progress, diving deep into the evolving career of a gloriously foul-mouthed former Ohio farm girl and the bandmates behind her. Lydia & co. may be on a familiar and oft-repeated journey—from tour van to rock club to recording studio and repeat—but theirs is a singular version thanks to the talented, charismatic woman at the wheel.

Followed by a Q & A with Loveless and Bechard.

10:30 pm: Live performance: Lydia Loveless

Day 7: Wednesday, June 8th

7:00 pm: Newtown Stories --Three World Premieres!

Team 26 (Sue Roman, 2016) 20 min

#We Are All Newtown (Kim Snyder, 2016) 20 min

Notes from Dumblane (Kim Snyder, 2016) 20 min

Followed by a Q & A with filmmakers and special guests.

Day 8: Thursday, June 9th

3:00 to 5:30 pm: Informal work-in-progress screenings by local filmmakers.

7:00 pm *Angel of Nanking* (Jordan Horowitz and Frank Ferendo, 2015) 70 min

The Yangtze River Bridge in Nanjing is one of the most famous bridges in China.

It is also the most popular place in the world to commit suicide. For the past 11 years Chen Si has been patrolling this bridge, looking to provide aid for those who've gone there to end their lives. Incredibly, he has saved over 300 people.

Followed by a Q & A with the filmmakers.

8:15 pm: coffee

8:30 pm: *Radical Hospitality* (Amanda Chemeche, 2016) 26 min

His Name is Midnight (Kelly Colbert, 2015) 28 min

The story of a prince to pauper rodeo horse with an unstoppable will to survive.

Followed by a Q & A with the filmmakers.

Friday, June 10th to Sunday June 12th: Revealing Scams, Lies, Trickery and Deceit: The Documentaries of Alex Gibney. Joint with the International Festival of Arts and Ideas.

Alex Gibney has been turning out innovative and important documentaries at an astonishing rate. We celebrate his career with a selection of his most powerful achievements, which investigate and reveal disturbing duplicities and corruption of American life. A few years ago *Esquire* Magazine observed that Gibney "is becoming the most important documentarian of our time." Perhaps it is time for that kudo to be placed in the present tense.

Day 9: Friday June 10th:

7 pm: *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* (2005) -109 min

Examines the fall of the Enron Corporation, arguably the most shocking example of modern corporate corruption. In a hyper-competitive environment, Enron traders resort to all kinds of underhanded dealings in order to make money at any cost and keep their high-paying jobs

9 pm: *Taxi to the Darkside* (2007) 106 min

Explores the American military's use of torture by focusing on the unsolved murder of an Afghani taxi driver who, in 2002, was taken for questioning at Bagram Force Air Base. Five days later, the man was dead.

Day 10: June 11th, Saturday

12:30 pm: *Client 9: The Rise and Fall Eliot Spitzer* (2010) of 118 min

An in-depth look at the imploded political career of New York Governor Eliot Spitzer. With unique access, the film explores the hidden contours of hubris, sex and power.

Followed by a Q & A with filmmaker Alex Gibney.

3:30 pm: *The Armstrong Lie* (2013) 122 min

Chronicles sports legend Lance Armstrong's improbable rise and ultimate fall from grace as he is caught in an industry wide doping scandal.

Followed by a Q & A with the filmmaker Alex Gibney.

Day 11: Sunday, June 12th:

12:30 pm *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief* (2015) 120 min

Winner of three Emmy Awards including Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Special, *Going Clear* takes a look at eight former members of the Church of Scientology, and shines a light on how the church cultivates true believers.

3:00 pm Panel: *The Documentary Art of Investigation and Revelation* with Alex Gibney, Jake Halpern, and Chandra Prasad.

The Third New Haven Documentary Film Festival was made possible by a host of sponsors and supporters including:

The Office of New Haven and State Affairs, Yale University
Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism, City of New Haven

The Whitney Humanities Center

Films at the Whitney, supported by the Barbakow Fund for Innovative Film Programs at Yale

The Program in Public Humanities at Yale

What We Were Thinking Films

Willoughby's Coffee

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**NEW HAVEN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL/INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND IDEAS**