



Washington, DC International Film Festival

Media Contact: Travis Hare
Travis@KendraRubinfeldPR.com

For Immediate Release

Filmfest DC Celebrates Its 35th Anniversary!
Virtual streaming and in-person screening at The Wharf
Special Section of films by DC Filmmakers
60 films, from 35 countries, over 10 days

(May 10, 2021) - WASHINGTON, DC – The Washington, DC International Film Festival (Filmfest DC) will present its 35th anniversary edition from Friday, June 4 through Sunday, June 13, 2021. Most of the festival will be presented virtually. This year’s selection comprises a lineup of 60 new films from 35 countries over 10 days.

“As we move out of the pandemic, Filmfest DC looks forward to welcoming back its enthusiastic audience of film buffs and joining them with the exciting work of international storytellers,” said Festival Founding Director, Tony Gittens. Gittens is one of the only African American international film festival directors in the world.

French comedy *Love Affair(s)* by Emmanuel Moret will open the festival and Spain’s charming *One Careful Owner* by Bernabe Rico is the Closing feature. The festival obtained the US premiere of the Netherlands’ humorous *The Marriage Escape* by Johan Nijenhuis (“When is love too much?”) and the timely *What You Don’t About Me* by Rolando Colla from Switzerland. There are two North American Premieres, Spain’s *That Was Life* by David Martin de los Santos and *In Balanchine’s Classroom* by Connie Hochman which features previously unseen footage of ballet innovator George Balanchine at work with his talented dancers.

Filmfest DC will host Sunset Cinema at **The Wharf**, an outdoor screening at the Southwest Wharf on **Saturday, June 12** (960 Wharf Street, SW). Featured will be the UK romantic comedy *Love Type D* by Sasha Collington. In the film, Frankie Browne tests positive for the Type D gene, a genetic defect they say condemns her to a life of romantic failure. This crushing diagnosis sets in motion a comic journey as Frankie struggles to understand the human heart and whether your genes are truly your destiny.

Returning Filmfest DC sections include Trust No One (international thrillers), The Lighter Side (international comedies) and World View (a selection of new features produced around the globe).

DC4Reel, a collection of new films by Washington filmmakers, will be presented FREE OF CHARGE to maximize exposure for local talent. The package of 9 features and shorts include films such as *Go-Go City: Displacement and Protest in Washington, DC* by Sam George, a film billed as “a story of gentrification, protest and the funkier music on earth,” *A Tale of Three Chinatowns* by Lisa Mao looks at history of Chinatown neighborhoods in DC, Chicago and Boston and how gentrification and assimilation have changed these communities. Additionally, *BLAHC: The Brookland Literary & Hunting Club* by Kenneth Alexander Campbell explores the rich history of a private poker club for black men that has been in existence in the Brookland neighborhood of DC since 1942.

Arabian Sights, the festival's annual series of new films from the Arab World, will be incorporated into this year's Filmfest DC and will present 6 new films emerging from the Arab world. Films include the Palestinian comedy *Gaza Mon Amour*, starring Hiam Abbass and *Broken Keys*, Lebanon's entry in the Best International Feature Film category at this year's Academy Awards.

Justice Matters, the festival's popular social issues section, introduces 6 feature length films about the ongoing movements for justice and freedom, including *SNCC* (the story of the civil rights organization in the 1960s as told through the photographs and recollections of progressive and celebrated photojournalist Danny Lyon), and *Writing With Fire* (the award-winning news service run entirely by Dalit women, a marginalized caste in India, which has over 150 million YouTube channel followers).

Finally, Filmfest DC's **Impact Project** takes films and filmmakers from the festival directly into local school classrooms to enrich their arts/humanities curricula. Impact Project partner, [Teaching for Change](#), advises on the appropriateness of films and provides outreach and advice to local middle school and high school teachers. The impact on students and filmmakers is significant.

"It's extremely rewarding to have founded Filmfest DC and remain involved as it developed into one of Washington's major cultural experiences," said Gittens. "Our staff is among the most diverse of any international film festival. This provides a grounded foundation and gives us a unique perspective for including films that might not get the opportunity to be screened otherwise."

Tickets go on sale Friday, May 14th, with Early Bird discount tickets available all through that weekend. For more information and a full slate of films, please visit: <http://www.filmfestdc.org>

###

For 35 years, **Filmfest DC** has sought to keep pace with global culture and social activities, taking a special focus on issues of the moment in hopes of increasing clarity and civil discourse. Filmfest DC is made possible by the support of our Board of Directors, sponsors, staff and hundreds of volunteers. Filmfest DC believes that good movies make the world a better place.

www.filmfestdc.org