



**VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The 2014 Vermont International Film Festival Brings the World to Downtown Burlington in October**

Burlington, VT: (October 6, 2014): The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF) is pleased to announce the 2014 Vermont International Film Festival, taking place for 10 days, October 24 – November 2 in downtown Burlington. Over 90 screenings, special events, receptions and filmmaker events will take place at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center in the Film House and Black Box Theater. Lunchtime screenings will take place at The BCA Center on Church Street and additional screenings and events will happen at Skinny Pancake, ArtsRiot and Signal Kitchen. Full information about all film and events can be found at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org).

#### **Ticket Information**

Tickets and schedule will be available to the general public online at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org) on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, the same day that printed programs will be available and inserted inside Seven Days Newspaper. The festival guide will also be available that day at the festival offices at 230 College Street in Burlington. For most screenings, tickets are \$10, \$8 for Seniors, \$5 for Children and Students, with the exception of the Vermont Filmmakers Showcase selections, which are by donation. A Festival Gold Pass is also available for \$120, which gains access to most films and events, and VTIFF Members gain discounted or free access to films and events with membership.

#### **2014 Festival Highlights**

### **Festival Kickoff Film & Event: We Are The Best!**

The festival starts with a bang, Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> with a screening of the Swedish film We Are The Best! This film has been winning the hearts of critics and audiences all over the world, ending up on numerous 10 best lists this year. Director Lukas Moodysson creates an invigorating portrait of teenage punk—that boisterous, rambunctious energy that’s re-fueled anew by each generation’s sense of righteous passion, impatient desire for independence and uneasy brew of angst, anger and ambition. *We Are the Best!* is a delightfully vivacious experience, brimming with infectious humanism, which perfectly captures the irrepressible spirit of youthful rebellion.

The screening will be followed by an opening night party, downstairs from the theater at Skinny Pancake at 8:30pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>. This celebration is the official start of the Film Festival and announcement of the VT Filmmakers’ Showcase Award-winners.

### **Special Event: Norman McLaren And Steve Woloshen Retrospective :**

On Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 PM in the Main Street Landing Film House, there will be a special anniversary screening. To honor world-renowned Academy Award winning filmmaker/ animator Norman McLaren (*Neighbors*) on the 100th anniversary of his birth, we’re delighted to welcome Steve Woloshen, considered a McLaren disciple and respected and admired for scratch animation films in his own right. McLaren came to Canada from Scotland in 1941 to work at the National Film Board, where he was asked to form its animation department, and where he developed his technique of drawing directly on film stock. Woloshen will present a selection of his favorite McLaren shorts and some of his own. Following the screening there will be a presentation by the filmmaker (Steve Woloshen) and a reception sponsored by the Quebec Delegation, Boston.

### **Festival Music Film & Event: 20,000 Days on Earth and Gala Closing Party at Signal Kitchen:**

Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm in MSL Film House, join festival goers for the closing night film, 20,000 Days on Earth. *20,000 Days on Earth* is a bold vision of one of music’s most mysterious and charismatic figures: Nick Cave. In their debut feature, directors Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard fuse drama and documentary by weaving a cinematically staged day in Cave’s life with never-before-seen cinéma vérité observations of his full creative cycle. This screening will be followed by a closing party at 8:30pm at Signal Kitchen in Burlington, celebrating the Season 2 premiere of the Vermont PBS series Makin’ Friends with Ryan Miller. Ryan Miller, lead singer of Guster and host of Makin’ Friends with Ryan Miller will sing songs about friends with his friends in Swale. A set by Swale will follow.

**Family-Friendly Films:** A special selection curated for the whole family – Weekends at 11 am at Main Street Landing Film House.

The Boy And The World (O Menino E O Mundo), Saturday, 10/25: Brazilian director Alê Abreu's beautifully rendered, dialogue-free film is an emotionally resonant, visually enthralling, utterly charming tale perfectly suited for audiences of all ages.

Ragnarok, Sunday 10/26: *Ragnarok* sits on the same summit as many of the best adventure films of the 1980s. It steers clear of the trappings of modern family fare—just great storytelling, acting and adventure!

Zip & Zap And The Marble Gang, Saturday 11/1: *Zip & Zap and the Marble Gang* explores themes of friendship, courage and acceptance, and is a wonderful addition to the children's adventure film genre.

**VTIFF After Dark:** A series of three genre films presented at ArtsRiot on Pine Street at 10pm

A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night, Sunday 10/26: Writer-director Ana Lily Amirpour's first feature, *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*, has been described as a "Middle Eastern feminist vampire romance," but it's much more than that.

Honeymoon, Tuesday 10/28: This taut and smoldering horror story's strength comes from two incredible performances—that will leave you gutted.

Life After Beth, Thursday 10/30: Writer-director Jeff Baena (*I Heart Huckabees*) unearths a fresh and hilarious take on zombies, bringing together an all-star comedy cast including Aubrey Plaza (*Parks & Recreation*), John C. Reilly, Molly Shannon and Anna Kendrick. Get ready for a fun and gory ride!

### **Special Event: The Cold War On Film**

We are delighted to welcome from England film historian and television producer Taylor Downing. Downing will introduce our special screenings of *Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned To Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (screening as part of the festival Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm) to mark the 50th anniversary of the film and will talk about the making of the film. As a separate event, he will present the last episode of *The Cold War*, Turner Broadcasting System's landmark 24-part TV series. Downing was a producer on the Series, and has selected to show *The Cold War: The Wall Comes Down* (Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Champlain College) and talk about the specific challenges of making that program.

### **Special Event: The Green Valley Media/VTIFF Film S.O.S. Initiative**

On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at Main Street Landing Film House there will be an announcement of the launch of a new initiative for the digitization of Vermont films and the presentation of the first two grantees. Program will include clips from the films awarded the grant, a short compilation of clips and footage of Vermont films through the ages, and a panel/audience talk about the importance, value and special challenges of identifying, documenting, preserving and digitizing these historically and culturally important films. Panelists include Nora Jacobson (filmmaker, coordinator of the Vermont movie), Fred

Pond who led the digitization project at the Vermont Historical Society, Nat Winthrop (producer, the Vermont Movie), Taylor Downing (producer of archive based documentaries), Anne Fleming (ex-curator of the British National Film & TV Archive). Moderator: Doreen Kraft (president, Green Valley Media and Executive Director of Burlington City Arts).

### **Film Panels:**

#### Bodies In Action - Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, Main Street Landing Black Box Theater

A panel of dancers will speak following the 1:30 pm screening of Born To Fly, documentary film about action-obsessed choreographer Elizabeth Streb, who has spent more than three decades creating spectacles, sensations, controversies and provocations. Panelists include: Lida Winfield, Hannah Dennison, Paul Besaw and Selene Colburn.

#### Civil Liberties, or how to obtain information - Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, Main Street Landing Film House

Panel follows the 2pm screening of Informants, a unique look at FBI informants themselves, highlighting the crucial role they played in actively enlisting young men who never demonstrated any inclinations toward violence. Panelists include: Jeremy Young, and Alan Gilbert and Dan Barrett of ACLUVT.

### **Filmmaker Highlight: Vermont Filmmaker's Showcase**

The Vermont Filmmakers Showcase brings 13 films this year to The Main Street Landing Black Box Theater, presented by the filmmakers. These films showcase a diverse and talented group of local filmmakers, and demonstrate the passion and dedication that is present in Vermont for filmmaking. Films will be selected for various awards: The James Goldstone Award, the Ben & Jerry's Award, the Footage Farm USA Award, VCAM Audience Favorite Award and VTIFF Awards for Best Film, Best Screenwriting, Best Acting. Each film screens for free, donations are accepted for VTIFF. See [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org) for film schedule.

**The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF)** is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community through film. VTIFF operates year-round and showcases community film screenings, hosts film series like the Global Roots Series, and supports Vermont filmmakers. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival. Vermont's longest running film festival; this year marks its 29th Anniversary. The festival is best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont and for the Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films. The 2014 festival runs October 24<sup>th</sup> -November 2nd 2014, at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, and The BCA Center. More information at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org).

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