



VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FOUNDATION

**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS: 1985 - 2015**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Announcing All 2015 Vermont International Film Festival Guests: Filmmakers, Speakers, Panelists and Presenters**

Burlington, VT: (October 13, 2015): The Vermont International Film Foundation is pleased to announce all guests for the 2015 Vermont International Film Festival, October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 in Downtown Burlington:

**FILMMAKERS PRESENTING THEIR WORKS OR ATTENDING Q&AS:**

**Mark Covino** (Jury Member, *Sleepless in Burlington*)

Mark is the director of the award-winning documentary *A Band Called Death* as well as the upcoming *The Crest*.

**Erin Davis** (Lunchtime Shorts, Director, *The Land*)

Erin Davis is an artist, filmmaker, radio producer and educator living in Vermont, USA.

**Tom DiCillo** (Director, *Down in Shadowland* and *Living in Oblivion*)

Di Cillo is a filmmaker, cinematographer and actor. In 1987 he shot (and acted in) *Stranger Than Paradise* for friend and film school classmate Jim Jarmusch. He directed his first feature *Johnny Suede* in 1990 which one Best Picture at the Locarno Film Festival. In 1995 he made the multi-award winning

film *Living in Oblivion* starring Steve Buscemi. Other films include *Box of Moonlight*, *The Real Blonde*, *Double Whammy*, *Delirious*, and *When You're Strange*, a documentary film on the The Doors. Di Cillo has also written books and worked for television.

**Ted Dintersmith** (Executive Producer, *Most Likely to Succeed*)

Dintersmith is actively involved with a number of initiatives that seek to deliver vastly improved learning experiences to people around the globe. He is particularly interested in the role of film in effecting social change.

**Lázaro J. González** (Lunchtime Shorts, Director, *Masks*)

Lazaro Gonzalez was born in Pinar del Rio, Cuba in 1990. He is a graduate of the Journalism School at the University of Havana. Lazaro also works in the Communications Department at the International Film and Television School (EICTV) in San Antonio De Los Baños.

**Deedee Halleck** (Lunchtime Shorts, *Bread & Puppet Video Presentation*)

Halleck is a media activist and co-founder of Deep Dish TV. Together with Tamar Schumann she has created a comprehensive online archive of Bread and Puppet imagery.

**Stéphane Lafleur** (Director, *Tu Dors Nicole*)

Lafleur is a Quebec filmmaker and a musician. His first short, *Karaoke*, won the Best Canadian Short at TIFF 1999. In 2007 he directed his first feature, *Continental, a Film Without Guns*, which premiered at Venice Film Festival. *Tu Dors Nicole* is his 3rd feature.

**Robin Lloyd** (Lunchtime Shorts, *Bread & Puppet Video Presentation*)

Lloyd is a videographer who has documented numerous B&P pageants from 1992 to 1998. She is also a long-time supporter of VTIFF.

**Luke Meyer** (Director, **Breaking a Monster**)

Part of the filmmaking collective SeeThink Films, Meyer won the SxSW audience award for his directorial debut, *Darkon*. He has since been involved – as director, writer, or producer – on a number of documentaries, including *New World Order* and *Alice Neel*.

**Holly Morris** (Director, *The Babushkas of Chernobyl*)

Morris is an author and documentary director/producer as well as a television presenter. As producer and correspondent, Morris has made programs in Bangladesh, Borneo, Brazil, Cuba, Gabon, India, Iran, Niger and many others. She is featured in *Gringo Trails*, also showing at this festival.

**Joshua Oppenheimer** (Director, *The Look of Silence*, Q&A via skype)

Oppenheimer was born in Austin, TX and grew up in and around Washington DC and Austin. His first film, *The Entire History of the Louisiana Purchase* (1997) won a Gold Hugo at the Chicago International Film Festival (1988). From 2004 to 2012, he produced a series of films in Indonesia. His debut feature, *The Act of Killing* (shown at VTIFF 2013) went on to win many prizes world-wide. Joshua currently lives in Denmark. He is the recipient of the MacArthur Genius Award.

**Eva Sollberger** (Jury Member, *Sleepless in Burlington*)

Sollberger is a filmmaker, journalist, and social media maven who created and produces the acclaimed *Stuck in Vermont* web series. She has directed over 400 episodes for the series.

**Shannon Sun-Higginson** (Director, *GTFO*)

Sun-Higginson is a documentary filmmaker from New York City. She has worked as a Production Coordinator at Zero Point Zero Production on the TV series *No Reservations* and *Parts Unknown*. *GTFO* is her first feature documentary and it was funded on Kickstarter. She is currently working on a new film, *The Witman Project*.

**Sylvain Tremblay** (Lunchtime Shorts, Director, *No Gender*)

Tremblay was born in Quebec City. From a career in illustration, he made a shift in 2002 to painting full time. His work has been shown in Canada, the USA, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Tremblay takes part in live painting events and projects that bring art outside the walls, for example his participation in the Formula 1 Grand Prix in 2014. Tremblay is based in Dubai where he teaches history of modern art at the Canadian University. He also lives and works in Beijing and Montreal.

**Colin Trevorrow** (Head of Jury, *Sleepless in Burlington*)

Trevorrow is the writer and director of *Safety Not Guaranteed* and *Jurassic World*. He has been tapped to direct one of the upcoming *Star Wars* sequels and is currently at work on the drama *The Book of Henry*.

**Pegi Vail** (Director, *Gringo Trails*)

Vail is an anthropologist and documentary filmmaker. She is the Associate Director at the Center for Media, Culture, and History at New York University, and has taught on culture and media at NYU and Columbia University's anthropology department. She also lectures on expedition and travel film.

**Steve Woloshen** (Animation workshop)

Woloshen was born and lives in Montreal. He is an internationally renowned film animator and a pioneer of cameraless drawn-on-film animation. His films are heavily inspired by music, particularly jazz, and has made numerous short abstract works that have been shown in festivals worldwide. Woloshen created the special 30th anniversary for this year's VTIFF trailer and will be leading an animation workshop at the festival, suitable for the whole family. This is Steve's second visit to VTIFF.

**SPEAKERS, PANELISTS**

**Harry Bliss** (*Very Semi-Serious*)

Bliss has illustrated many books, produced hundreds of cartoons and 19 covers for The New Yorker.

**Bree Benjamin** (Student Matinee: *My Skinny Sister*)

Bree Benjamin is the founder and director of the Vermont Center for Integrative Therapy who holds a master's degree in Counseling Psychology. Her therapeutic interests have focused on integrative treatment for eating disorders, trauma, and addiction.

**Meaghan Emery** (Student Matinee: *Once in a Lifetime*)

Meaghan is an Associate Professor of French at UVM with a focus on French and Francophone literature and film.

**Mark Estrin** (Lunchtime Shorts, *Bread & Puppet Video Presentation*)

Mark is a writer and publisher as well as a puppeteer and author of *Rehearsing with Gods: Photographs and Essays on the Bread and Puppet Theater* (photos by Ron Simon). He has published several books on Peter Schumann.

**Megan Epler Wood** (*Gringo Trails*)

Epler Wood has been working for 25 years on ecotourism and sustainable travel as an NGO leader, international consultant, and educator. She is presently heading a research program at the Harvard Center for Health and the Global Environment on sustainable tourism which is developing tools to manage tourism in the 21st century

**Alexandra Halkin** (*Song of the Street & Lunchtime Shorts: Masks*)

Halkin is the director of the Americas Media Initiative and will be presenting two new Cuban films. She lives in Burlington.

**House of LeMay** (Audience Favorite Awards Winners Presentation before Closing Night Film)

The House of LeMay – featuring Amber, Lucy Belle, and Margaurite – has been raising funds and awareness for many local charities and organizations for over twenty years. Their bio-documentary, *Slingbacks and Syrup*, was featured at VTIFF 2008.

**Doreen Kraft** (*Sweet Micky for President*)

Kraft is a filmmaker who made two films in Haiti in the 1970s. She is also the Executive Director of Burlington City Arts. She will be introducing *Sweet Micky for President*.

**Ed Koren** (*Very Semi-Serious*)

Koren has published over 1000 cartoons for the New Yorker, as well as numerous covers and illustrations.

**Mónica Rivero Cabrera** (*Song of the Street*)

Mónica is a Cuban Journalist who will be appearing via Skype for a post screening Q&A for *Song of the Street*

**Laura Schenck** (Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase)

Director of Visual Productions, Executive Producer, TV and Special Projects, Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

**David Tomasi** (*The Dinner*)

David Tomasi was born in South Tyrol, Italy. He was formerly a teacher at the Italian Waldorf School and was Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts of Verona. He is a mental health residential counselor at the Howard Center in Burlington, and teaches classes at St Michael's College, UVM and CVU.

The Vermont International Film Foundation is pleased to present the 2015 Vermont International Film Festival, October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 in Downtown Burlington. This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VTIFF and to celebrate, VTIFF will be presenting the largest film festival program in its recent history, featuring over 75 films from around the world, special guests, events, receptions, school

programs and much more. This 10-day celebration of cinema and community takes place at the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center with screenings in both the Black Box Theater and the Film House and events in the Lobby and Atrium on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of Main Street Landing. Other locations include The BCA Center on Church Street with Lunchtime Shorts screenings during the weekdays at noon, and VTIFF After Dark screenings at Arts Riot on Pine Street. The full schedule is available online for viewing and ticket purchase at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org). The printed festival program will be inserted in every issue of Seven Days on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, then available at the Festival Office at 230 College Street in Burlington. The Printed program will be available on site during the festival.

VTIFF 2015 is sponsored by Green Valley Media, Vermont Arts Council, Vermont Community Fund, Grace Jones Richardson Trust, City of Burlington, John M Bissell Foundation, Champlain College, UVM, Northfield Savings Bank, Urban Rhino Visual, Arts Riot, Burlington City Arts, Ben & Jerry's.

**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, supports programming like the Global Roots Series, the Burlington Film Society and VTIFF For Schools, as well as supporting Vermont filmmakers. VTIFF celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival, best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont. The festival also includes the Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films. The 2015 festival runs October 23<sup>rd</sup> -November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, 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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