



VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The 2016 Vermont International Film Festival– Special events and screenings, Guests**

Burlington, VT: (October 7, 2016): The Vermont International Film Foundation is pleased to announce the 2016 Vermont International Film Festival, October 21st to October 30<sup>th</sup> in Downtown Burlington. This year marks the 31st Anniversary of VTIFF and we will be presenting close to 60 films of all genres and styles from around the world, special guests, events, receptions, student matinees and 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. The full schedule is now available online for viewing and ticket purchase. The printed festival program will be inserted in every issue of Seven Days on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, then available at the Festival Office at 100 Main Street in Burlington. The Printed program will be available on site during the festival. Visit <http://www.vtiff.org/festival> for more information.

#### **Guests Announced**

VTIFF is excited to welcome the many filmmakers who will attend their screenings and the post-screening Q&As. For a full list of guests visit [vtiff.org/festival/vtiff-2016-festival-guests/](http://vtiff.org/festival/vtiff-2016-festival-guests/)

#### **Opening Night Film**

VTIFF is thrilled to announce that Vermont filmmaker Nora Jacobson's new film *The Hanji Box* has been selected to open the 2016 Vermont International Film Festival. The film will be screened Friday, Oct 21 at 7pm at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center – Film House, and will be its World Premiere. Nora Jacobson as well as *The Hanji Box* stars Suzanne C Dudley and Natalie Kim, will attend the screening. For more information about the film visit [vtiff.org/events/the-hanji-box/](http://vtiff.org/events/the-hanji-box/).



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## Cuban Cinema Spotlight

VTIFF is pleased to be partnering this year with Americas Media Initiative to present a showcase of Cuban Cinema. Two films by acclaimed Cuban director Fernando Pérez, *Havana Suite* and *Wall of Words* will be shown and a specially selected program of short films. Dany Diaz, Pérez's producer will be coming from Cuba to present his films.

VTIFF is proud that its program this year has a high proportion of films made by women directors such as *The Last Laugh* by Pearl Fernstein, *Evolution* by Lucile Hadžihalilović, *Layla Fourie* by Pia Marais, *Miss Sharon Jones!* by Barbara Kopple, *Sand Storm* by Elite Zexer and many more.

The LGBT community is proudly represented by such films as *The Handmaiden*, *Kiki*, *Viva*, *Political Animals* and Flynn Executive Director John Killacky's short films

There are also six films relating to the Jewish experience: The Polish film *Demon* by Marcin Vrona, *The Interrogation* by Erez Pery, *The Last Laugh* by Perle Fernstein. *P. S. Jerusalem* by Danae Elon and two shorts: *Bacon & God's Wrath* by Sol Friedman and *Silence* by VTIFF Executive Director, Orly Yadin

The coming of age theme has a strong presence in the festival this year with films such as *Morris from America*, *Microbe & Gasoline*, *Girl Asleep*, *My Revolution*, *Best and Most Beautiful Things* and more.

Music-themed films include: *Contemporary Color*, *Miss Sharon Jones!*, *Sonita*, *Triplets of Belleville* and *High Watermark: The Rise and Fall of the Pants*.

VTIFF has a strong tradition of showing films that represent current social concerns and this year, unsurprisingly, we have a powerful selection of films that relate to the refugee and immigrant experience, including such films as *A Syrian Love Story*, *Fatima*, *My Revolution*, *P. S. Jerusalem* and more.

Finally, VTIFF is proud to present the longest running Showcase for Vermont filmmakers. This year the jury has selected 15 films in competition, including Deb Ellis's and Denis Mueller's *Peace Has No*



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*Borders*, Burlington Chief of Police Brandon del Pozo's *Sunday 1287*, Jesse Kreitzers' *Black Canaries* and Daniel Houghton's *The Collinwood Fire* and more.

VTIFF 2016 is sponsored by Green Valley Media, Vermont Arts Council, Grace Jones Richardson Trust, Dealer.com, PCC (Physicians Computer Company), , Champlain College, UVM, Northfield Savings Bank, Urban Rhino Visual, 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 Film Festival, 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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