



Press Release

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VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL ANNOUNCE MONTHLY SCREENING SERIES PARTNERSHIP

The Vermont International Film Festival [VTIFF] and the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival [MNFF] are pleased to announce the creation of **Split/Screen**, an online monthly movie series partnership that will begin in November and run through June 2021. The two festivals will each curate a selection of four or five films in alternating months, with MNFF leading off in November, following VTIFF's October online festival, and VTIFF then creating a December program and so forth into the new year. The Festivals will be promoting Split/Screen on their respective websites where detailed information and film previews will be available, along with opportunities to purchase both monthly Passes and individual tickets. The Festivals anticipate reaching a very wide audience over the course of this eight month partnership.

Split/Screen will kick off November 20-29 with an MNFF-curated documentary program that embraces the gathering of families during Thanksgiving with a broadly appealing selection of films including *The Booksellers*, *Gordon Lightfoot: If You Could Read My Mind*, *Mountain* and *Through The Night*. VTIFF will present the next Split/Screen film program from December 18-27 with specific films to be announced in early December. Monthly Passes for Split/Screen will be \$40 and individual tickets will be sold for \$12.50. Visit vtiff.org/splitscreen or

middfilmfest.org/splitscreen for information on purchasing Passes and tickets and upcoming monthly film selections. Split/Screen will be hosted by the secure premium online platform CineSend and will be viewable on a wide array of devices including mobile, tablet, laptop and big screen televisions.

“We are very pleased to continue VTIFF’s tradition of partnering with other film festivals and organizations in Vermont” said VTIFF Executive Director Orly Yadin. “For several years we have collaborated with Brattleboro Film Festival, White River Indie Festival and Middlebury College’s Hirschfield International Film Series. Split/Screen, the new virtual partnership with MNFF, will provide our expanded audiences with rich and diverse offerings and opportunities for a rich curated experience.”

“The pandemic has few upsides, “said MNFF artistic director, Jay Craven. “But one of them is the opportunity to explore new collaborations – both in terms of audience building and combining artistic sensibilities. We look forward to this.”

“We are genuinely thrilled to be collaborating with VTIFF on this new initiative that blends our mutual and ongoing commitment to building film culture,” noted Lloyd Komesar, MNFF Producer. “Split/Screen will display remarkable breadth and depth over its eight month run and its online presence gives us the distinct opportunity to extend our collective reach across the US and beyond.”

The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF) is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community and bring the world to Vermont through film. With membership support VTIFF operates year-round with its virtual cinema platform, showing 1-2 new films each week. When not during the pandemic, it presents in a theatrical setting monthly screenings, a Global Roots Film Festival and a North East Filmmakers Showcase. VTIFF celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2020. The largest program of VTIFF is the annual Vermont International Film Festival, best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont. The 2020 festival runs October 23rd -Nov 1 on VTIFF’s virtual portal and will focus on the reporter, news media and film showcasing 12 films and 6 panel discussions. More information at VTIFF.ORG

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is a Vermont-based 501[c][3] non-profit organization with E.I.N. 47-1462141. The Festival was formed to support, promote and exhibit the dynamic and imaginative efforts of first and second time filmmakers and to give new filmmakers a chance to be discovered in a setting that is all about their work, from start to finish. The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival recently concluded a successful presentation of its 6th Annual event, MNFF6: ONLINE, showcasing 26 feature films and 33 shorts, thanks in part to a CARES Act grant from the Vermont Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. MNFF7 is currently scheduled to take place in Middlebury August 26-29, 2021. More information at middfilmfest.org.