

BIG-EDDY

FILM FESTIVAL

NARROWSBURG - NEW YORK

BIG EDDY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2020 LINEUP INCLUDING TWO WORLD PREMIERES

***In Person September 24 – 26
Online September 24 – October 4
in Sullivan County, NY***

This September, the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance will expand the Big Eddy Film Festival (BEFF) beyond the movie theater for one-of-a-kind experiences, both outdoors and online. Central themes of the films being presented include untold female stories and the intersection of politics and music. Screenings will take place at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts Terrace Stage, the Big Eddy Film Festival's online streaming platform, and at a pop-up drive-in outside Narrowsburg.

WORLD PREMIERES AT BETHEL WOODS

The BEFF opens on Friday, September 25 with the world premiere theatrical screening of *JIMMY CARTER ROCK & ROLL PRESIDENT* at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. The film chronicles the relationship that music played in Carter's early life, his campaign for the White House, and his term as the 39th President of the United States (1977 - 1981). Particularly relevant in this election year, director Mary Wharton traces how Carter's genuine approachability became key to his political appeal, and allowed him to connect with voters. His embrace of music, particularly that of Bob Dylan, the Allman Brothers, and Willie Nelson, helped the peanut farmer from small-town Georgia reach out across racial and generational divides. The film, which was slated to open the Tribeca Film Festival in April (which was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic), has been picked up for distribution by CNN Films.

The festival continues at Bethel Woods on Saturday, September 26 with the world premiere theatrical screening of the new drama *GOSSAMER FOLDS*, a coming of age story set in 1980s Missouri. Ten-year-old Tate (Jackson Robert Scott, 'It') defies his transphobic father and develops a strong bond with his

transgender neighbor Gossamer (Alexandra Grey, "Empire," "Transparent") and her father, a retired English professor who is still processing his child's identity. The film's creative team includes queer director, Lisa Donato; transgender cinematographer, Ava Benjamin Shorr; cisgender producer, Yeardeley Smith (the voice of Lisa Simpson, and an LGBTQ+ ally); and transgender actor, Alexandra Grey. *The Advocate* says "It's a nuanced exploration of childhood, identity, friendship, and family dynamics, especially the formation of found families. Its characters are multilayered, imperfect, and evolving."

POP-UP DRIVE-IN EVENT

Grease is the word on Thursday, September 24!! An exclusive event for BEFF Superstar Passholders, the Big Eddy will host a film in the field screening of the musical phenomenon GREASE (1978) starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta. It's California 1959; greaser Danny Zuko and wholesome exchange student Sandy Olsson are in love. But when the summer ends and school begins, things get complicated. Pop the tailgate and cozy up under a blanket, or bring lawn chairs to sit around a personal campfire in the field. Bring your own brown bag dinner, or enjoy snacks and beverages from our concession stand. Individual tickets are not available to this event.

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 4

"For our extended 10-day virtual festival, we've curated a lineup of new documentaries relevant to today's world that will be available on our new streaming platform starting September 24," says festival director Tina Spangler. Cozy up at home for these fascinating nonfiction stories exploring a spectrum of women's experiences, and then join us online for hosted conversations with the makers. Meet a police chief actively reforming her department, an artist creating tools to demystify the female libido, and the first Mrs. Johnny Cash, whose long overdue story is told by her daughters.

THE DILEMMA OF DESIRE

Directed by Maria Finitzo

An exploration of "cliteracy," and the clash between the gender politics and the imperatives of female sexual desire, this entertaining, eye-opening, and radical documentary explores the work of four women who are shattering myths and lies about female sexual desire, bodies and - ultimately - power. The film is directed by Peabody Award-winner Maria Finitzo.

MY DARLING VIVIAN

Directed by Matt Riddlehoover

Meet the first Mrs. Johnny Cash, Vivian Liberto, through never-before-seen film and photographs, as well as intimate interviews with her four children, Rosanne, Kathy, Cindy, and Tara. The devoted daughters trace Vivian's romantic, wrenching, and dizzying journey. "My mother's own story has often been lost or misinterpreted to serve a myth. Even though she was an intensely private woman, I think she longed to have her story told, and her place in the history of

my family acknowledged with respect and love,” says Rosanne Cash. The film is directed by Matt Riddlehoover, Vivian Liberto’s grandson-in-law.

WOMEN IN BLUE

Directed by Deirdre Fishel

This documentary work-in-progress takes us inside the Minneapolis Police Department in the years and months leading up to George Floyd's murder. The film introduces us to Minneapolis's first female police chief, Janee Harteau, as she attempts to reform the force and recruit more women. We follow three of those female cops on their beats. This film is an extraordinary view into the very police department that months later was in the spotlight as a catalyst for a worldwide movement to end police violence.

Tickets and Passes

Tickets are available to individual films, for both physical screenings and online films. Big Eddy Film Festival Superstar Passes include admission to 3 nights of outdoor screenings, plus a panel discussion at Bethel Woods, and a 2020 BEFF sweatshirt. (Note: online screenings are not included in the pass).

Tickets and passes go on sale the first week of September.

For more details, visit BigEddyFilmFest.com or call DVAA 845-252-7576.

About the Big Eddy Film Festival

Produced by Delaware Valley Arts Alliance of Narrowsburg, NY, the Big Eddy Film Festival aims to advance the traditional art of storytelling by showing the newest and best independent films from around the world and our own backyard. To learn more, visit www.BigEddyFilmFest.com.

About the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance

Founded in 1976, DVAA serves as Arts Council for Sullivan County, NY. Our mission is to advance the arts in the region through the support and encouragement of artists; innovative programs; advocacy; and alliances with arts organizations, business, and government. With year-round exhibitions, performing arts programming, festivals, regrant programs, and more, DVAA is a vital hub for the region’s cultural community. To learn more, visit www.DelawareValleyArtsAlliance.org.

About Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts inspires, educates, and empowers individuals through the arts and humanities by presenting a diverse selection of culturally-rich performances, popular artists, and community and educational programming. Located 90 miles from New York City at the site of the 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY, the lush 800-acre campus includes a Pavilion Stage amphitheater with seating for 15,000, an intimate 440-seat indoor Event Gallery, the award-

winning Museum at Bethel Woods, and a Conservatory for arts education programming. To learn more, visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.org.

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Filmmakers and festival director Tina Spangler available for interviews.

*For publicity materials and to arrange interviews, contact: Tina Spangler, Festival Director, tina@delawarevalleyartsalliance.org
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