

Welcome to.....



the 13th Annual  
Ridgewood Guild  
International Film Festival  
is presented *live* at the



April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# Acknowledgements

The Ridgewood Guild's Board of Directors would like to thank the Westwood Cinema for allowing us to host our 13th Annual International Film Festival in its Westwood theater.



A special thank you to the theater staff for their help. Thank you for making it happen! We thank our Film Festival Committee: Dotti Fucito, RJ Konner, Celia Austin, Rosie Mc Cooe, Rahul Bhatia, Lou Clements, Mark Leschinsky, Andrea Leonarz, and Tony Damiano.

A special thank you goes out to our Committee Chair Jim Suozzo whose commitment to film is undaunting. We welcome and thank our Red Carpet hostesses and host, Celia Austin, Sally Ann Tumas-Skoric, Stephanie and Zach Dulli. for adding a touch of elegance. We thank our Signature Sponsor.....



To our Film Festival judges who viewed and critiqued all of our films: RJ Konner, Suzanne Ordas-Curry, Dana Glazer, and Vince Veloso.

To Greg Stewart for his talent in designing our graphics and laying out this program.

A special "thank you" to our celebrity guest, Harlan Coben for being a part of this year's festival.

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# In Memory of Lynne E. Clements



It was around 2010 when Lynne and I first discussed holding a film festival in Ridgewood. She was a customer of mine at Mango Jam for a number of years. She loved the Sidewalk Sale and, over the years, purchased many of my custom wreaths. She came in one day and told me of the film festival she created in Bergenfield.

“I’ve always thought Ridgewood would be the perfect town to do a film festival with all the culture in town.”

She loved Ridgewood and chose to open her office here. She asked if the Ridgewood Guild would be interested in hosting. This was our inaugural year. We were just getting started. To this day I still remember my response. “I’m a huge film fan, but don’t know anything about running a film festival.” She enthusiastically said she would guide me, and so she did. Our first festival was planned for the spring of 2011. It was a huge success. To this day, we still accept films from all genres: documentaries, short subjects, foreign films, music videos, and her favorite category... student films. In this, our 13th year, in honor of Lynne, we created the Lynne Clements Memorial Award for the "Most Promising Student

Filmmaker." One talented student will be the recipient of an award. How ironic that this year our Warner Theater closed its doors and Lynne decided to leave us.

But there was much more to Lynne than the Ridgewood Guild. She was a clinical psychologist who held her business, Corporate Family Resources, in Ridgewood for over 25 years. She changed location in town 3 times before relocating to Midland Park. Sadly, soon after I helped her set up shop, she became ill.

Lynne was born and raised in Bergenfield and lived there until her passing. She leaves behind her beloved husband Lou, who was also a film festival committee member and Ridgewood Guild volunteer. Her elder son Ryan followed in his mother's footsteps in the therapeutic field and resides on Long Island. Her younger son Glenn resides in L.A. and is a successful screen writer. Most recently, Glenn wrote for James Cordon's Carpool Karaoke. She adored her three grandchildren and proudly showed off their pictures whenever the opportunity rose. In addition, she spoke fondly of her cousins in Australia, oftentimes telling us stories about one cousin who was in the acting profession.

Lynne held several degrees including one from Harvard. She proudly sat on the Board of the Gifted Child and was adored by her clients, family, and friends.

To me personally, Lynne was the most kind, nurturing person I ever met. She would lend her trained ear to anyone who needed some helpful advice. She was there for many of us who were in need.

Lynne, you will be greatly missed by your Ridgewood Guild colleagues and all who have had the pleasure to have known you.

Rest in Peace dear friend.

Tony Damiano, Executive Director – The Ridgewood Guild



## A Note From Our Committee Chair. . .

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who is attending this year's film festival or made a movie that we have all come to watch. In this day and age where so many people consume movies from their couch at home, I find it refreshing to watch movies communally at a real theater with other human beings!

I guess that makes me old-fashioned but I'm happy that I am not alone in that belief. So welcome to the Ridgewood Guild International Film Festival!

This year hasn't been easy. Perhaps because this is our 13<sup>th</sup> iteration, we have experienced some bad luck seemingly from the start of the season. Just three months ago we learned that the movie theater we reserved to screen our movies, just like we have for the past dozen years, was suddenly closing. It is a big loss for the Village of Ridgewood and for our film festival. We did our best exploring alternate venues in town to keep the festival where it was meant to be, but in the end no school or church or community center or other venue in Ridgewood offered us what we and the filmmakers want – a large screen in a real movie theater environment. In the end we decided to screen our movies in Westwood at its classic movie theater. Westwood shares a lot of similarities with Ridgewood including its charming downtown filled with shops and restaurants. And the people at Celebrate Westwood welcomed us with open arms, which was much appreciated!

With many trials and tribulations this year, it was imperative that we had a film committee up to the task. And in my first year as the chair of the committee, it was comforting to know that our committee still retained as members past chairs Lynne

Clements, Tony Damiano and Dotti Fucito whom I relied on heavily. Tragically, co-founder Lynne Clements passed away in February and we miss her dearly. From when I first joined the committee in 2015, Lynne was always very encouraging and complimentary. Her positivity helped me through some trying times. Tony has continued to work tirelessly for the festival and the Ridgewood Guild generally, and there would be no festival without him and the sponsors he continues to attract so that we can afford to run the festival. And Dotti has been irreplaceable. I learned a lot last year under her tutelage but there is still so much I do not know, and I could not have pulled this festival together if she had not stayed on and essentially acted as my co-chair.

Thanks also goes to the rest of the committee – RJ Konner, Celia Austin, Lou Clements, Rahul Bhatia, Rosie McCooe, Mark Leschinsky and Andrea Leonarz. Special praise goes to Rosie who came up with good ideas and followed through on them. It is because of Rosie that we have the honor of presenting Harlan Coben for a lengthy interview and Question & Answer session with our audience, as well as the New Jersey premiere of a feature-length movie, *The Zombie Wedding*.

I would also like to thank the film industry professionals who have volunteered to judge the more than 50 films that we accepted into the festival this year: Dana Glazer, Vincent Veloso, RJ Konner and Suzanne Ordas Curry. They spent countless hours watching films and providing ratings so that we can award winners of the best student films, documentaries, shorts, and so on. Very much appreciated!

I hope you are as excited to watch this year's slate of independent films as we are to present them to you. Sit back and enjoy! And then let us know what you think so that next year's festival is even better.

-Jim Suozzo



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# Your Film Festival Hosts

## **TONY DAMIANO - Executive Director.**

Tony founded the Ridgewood Guild in 2010. The Ridgewood Guild is an amazing organization that became an overnight success. The Guild has currently over 400 members making it the largest organization in Ridgewood! It is made up of local merchants and residents alike. Tony encourages everyone to join The Ridgewood Guild to help fund events such as the Film Festival, Movies in the Park, Music in the Night, Art in the Park, Oktoberfest, Winterfest, etc.

## **JIM SUOZZO – Committee Chair**

Jim has been a committee member since 2016 and this year has taken on the task of Film Festival Committee Chair. He has worked tirelessly to create a successful Film Festival expanding it to a 4th night, creating a networking room, and working with our filmmakers to create an enjoyable atmosphere for all.

## **DOTTI FUCITO – Former Committee Chair**

Not only is Dotti an Advisory Director of The Ridgewood Guild, she has chaired the Film Festival for 7 years. Her knowledge and dedication is undaunting. We thank Dotti for her continued work on the committee.

**Q and A sessions** will take place with some of our filmmakers throughout the night. Look for their schedule in this brochure and feel free to ask questions regarding their films. Look for Q and A sessions by Harlan Coben, Rosemarie D’Alessandro (Daughter of Mine), Greg D’Alessandro and others from the NJ premier of The Zombie Wedding.





# Your Ridgewood Guild 2024 Board of Directors

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**the  
ridgewood  
guild**

**International  
Film Festival**

**WESTWOOD PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

**Sunday, April 14th**

## Westwood Public Library

SUNDAY APRIL 14, 2024 FROM 2:45 – 5:00 PM

2:45 RED CARPET - PHOTOGRAPHS AND  
INTERVIEWS IN FRONT OF THE STEP-AND-REPEAT

3:00 OPENING REMARKS BY JIM SUOZZO, FILM  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

3:05 **SET 1**

MugShot	1:47
Exit	5:13
Captive	11:20
Haunted for Life: Encounter	5:53
Upon Return	3:55
Ridgewood Guild International Film Festival Documentary	13:48
Trailer for Daughter of Mine	0:17
Trailer for The Zombie Wedding	1:40

3:50 Q&A WITH GREG D'ALESSANDRO,  
WRITER/PRODUCER OF ZOMBIE WEDDING

3:55 **SET 2**

Anna McGee's Wild Ride	1:36
Generations of Homemade Happiness	3:18
American Dream	2:55
MEVO: From Farm to Feast	8:45
The Self-Described Narrative of the (. . .) Past Prologue	25:44 13:35

4:55 Q&A WITH FILMMAKER GLENN ALLEN



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RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

**Tuesday, April 16th**

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Ridgewood Public Library

TUESDAY APRIL 16, 2024 FROM 7:00 - 9:00PM AT  
RIDGEWOOD LIBRARY (INTERNATIONAL NIGHT)

7:00 OPENING REMARKS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TONY DAMIANO AND FILM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
JIM SUOZZO

**7:05 SET 1**

Anna McGee's Wild Ride	1:36
Please Call Me	5:52
Melody	7:54
Captive	11:20
Exit	5:13
Renata (FC)	5:15
In Four Years	10:00

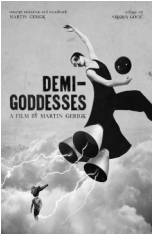
7:53 Q&A WITH FILMMAKER HEDI ASENCIO

**7:58 SET 2**

Demi-Goddesses	7:25
Limpiabotas	19:27
Pailet	32:10







## Demi-Goddesses

**7:25 - Krefeld, Germany**

**International**

**Martin Gerigk - Filmmaker**

Demi-Goddesses' is conceived as a surreal anti-patriarchal thought experiment and raises important questions about gender, power, and social change. The intention of the film is that it will spark conversations and inspire the viewer to imagine a world where gender is not a limiting factor.



## Limpiabotas

**19:27 - Dominican Republic**

**International**

**Yen Romero - Filmmaker**

Talented shoe shiner Julio, at a crossroads, uses his musical gift to attract tourists, rapping while shining shoes to support his family. The local gang eyes his skills, eager to recruit him, adding complexity to his crucial life juncture.



## Paillet

**32:10- Japan**

**International**

**Shusei Ueda - Filmmaker**

One day a bag is found in the toilet...



## Ridgewood Public Library

THURSDAY APRIL 18, 2024 FROM 6:30 - 9:30PM AT  
125 N MAPLE AVE, RIDGEWOOD, NJ

6:30 RECEPTION WITH NIBBLES BY PARIS BAGUETTE

7:00 OPENING REMARKS BY ROBERTA PANJWANI,  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING AT  
RIDGEWOOD LIBRARY

7:05 OPENING REMARKS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TONY DAMIANO AND FILM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
JIM SUOZZO

7:10 The Forest of Souls (a short film from France) 5:00

7:15 The Taste of Things  
(a feature-length film from France) 2:15:00

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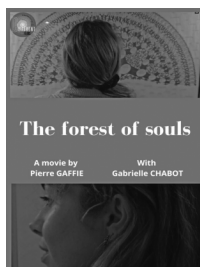


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## The Forest of Souls

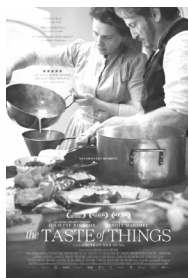
**5:00 - France**

**Short**

**Pierre Gaffié - Filmmaker**

Mathilde is a young acoustician. Fascinated by the power of sounds, she wants to invent a new way of travelling through time and find the souls of the departed...

**Director Statement:** I wanted to go beyond the trend of talking about the power of trees and their inner communication in a forest.



## The Taste of Things

**2:15:00 - France**

**Feature**

**Anh Hung Tran- Filmmaker**

Set in 1889, it depicts a romance between a cook and the gourmet she works for. The character of the gourmet is based on Dodin-Bouffant, created by Swiss author Marcel Rouff in his 1924 novel *La Vie et la passion de Dodin-Bouffant, gourmet* (The Passionate Epicure).

The film premiered on 24 May 2023 at the 76th Cannes Film Festival, and was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or. Tran Anh Hung won the Best Director award. The film was chosen as the French entry for Best International Feature Film at the 96th Academy Awards.

**End of Day**



WESTWOOD CINEMAS  
THEATER 1 and 2 (Afternoon)

**Thursday, April 25th**



RJ Konner

Proud member of the Board of Directors

## The Ridgewood Guild's International Film Festival

# RJ Konner

Actor / Producer  
& Senior Vice President of

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Westwood Cinemas – Theater 1 (Left)

4:00 pm – 5:01 pm April 25<sup>th</sup> - High School Student Films

4:03

The Cabin	3:19
Afraid	4:20
Haunted for Life: Encounter	5:53
Redundant	5:00
The Dark Side of Pet Breeding	6:30
Upon Return	3:55
Anna McGee's Wild Ride	1:36
At Odds	2:33
Destructive Deception	6:02
Remember me	5:59
Gone	7:13
Melody	7:54

5:02 Q&A WITH FILMMAKER LAUREN TYREE

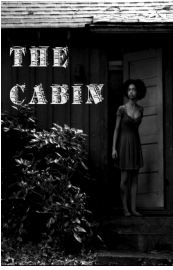
5:08 AWARDS PRESENTATION TO BEST HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE FILMMAKERS.

Westwood Cinemas – Theater 2 (Right)

4:00 pm – 5:07 pm BLOCK 2 - High School Student Films

4:02

Ridgewood Guild International	
Film Festival Documentary	13:48
Office Life	4:34
Beyond the Gate	6:11
Black Care	3:48
RENATA (FC)	5:15
American Dream	2:55
First Date	5:00
Please Call Me...	5:52
Slate	4:48
Behind The Curtain	8:57
Generations of Homemade Happiness	3:18



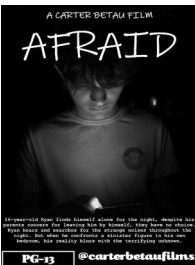
## The Cabin

**3:19 - Arlington, VA**  
**Student Film**

**John Monaco - Filmmaker**

An unsuspecting young girl dances through a cabin unaware that hidden eyes watch her every move, creating a false sense of safety within its walls.

John Monaco is a student at Duke Ellington School of the Arts. He is a graduate of the Tisch Future Filmmakers Workshop at New York University and is passionate with regard to all aspects of filmmaking.



## Afraid

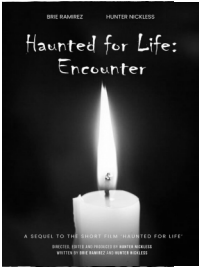
**4:20 - Voorhees, NJ**  
**Student Film**

**Carter Betau - Filmmaker**

16-year-old Ryan finds himself alone for the night, despite his parents concern for leaving him by himself, they have no choice. Ryan hears and searches for the strange noises throughout the night. But when he confronts a sinister figure in his own bedroom, his reality blurs with the terrifying unknown.

**Director's Statement** I am a 16 year old junior in high school with a passion for the film industry. From an early age, I have always been fascinated with film. For the past 2 years I have been working on film projects to enhance my abilities. I am beyond excited for the world to see just how far my creativity can go. I love getting on set and bringing my unique visions to life.





## Haunted for Life: Encounter

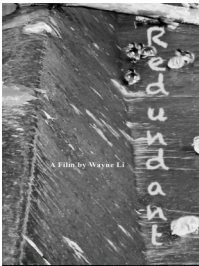
**5:53 - Chesapeake, MD**

**Student Film**

**Hunter Nickless - Filmmaker**

A sequel to the original short film "Haunted for Life". 2 teens perform a seance on Halloween night to see if a haunted dream comes true.

**Director Statement:** I challenged myself to take my private acting lessons and video editing lessons I have been receiving to create this short film. I wanted to create a sequel to the short I wrote and shot 2 years ago called "Haunted for Life", and to work on my script writing and acting skills for this short.



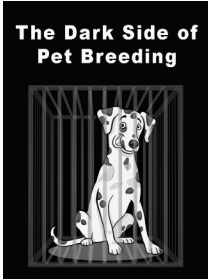
## Redundant

**5:00 - Livingston, NJ**

**Student Film**

**Wayne Li - Filmmaker**

A sunny afternoon on a weekend in the summer, with a stop to admire ducks. Most animals such as ducks learn many things through experience, and like animals, most problem solvers solve problems through experience. So sometimes when you see a problem, it's perfectly alright to help out, while other times, it's perfectly okay to let it get figured out.



## The Dark Side of Pet Breeding

**6:30 - Silver Spring, MD**  
**Student Film**

**Asher Anantham - Filmmaker**

For thousands of years, humans have been breeding dogs for work and companionship. When breeding was done in the right way, both species were arguably better off from it. But today, puppy mills profit by catering to cost conscious and whimsical consumers. It's time Congress put a stop to irresponsible breeding or, sooner or later, we will no longer recognize “man’s best friend”.



## Upon Return

**3:55 - Old Greenwich, CT**  
**Student Film**

**Devan Jordan, Emily Sedgwick - Filmmakers**

ABC Journalist Bob Woodruff shares his experience reporting on the Iraq war in 2006. He speaks on the founding and success of his foundation which aids veterans and explains the difficulties of coming back from war with injuries as they relate to his personal and professional life.

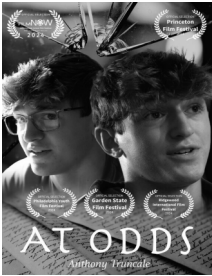


## Anna McGee's Wild Ride

**1:36 - Leeds, UK**  
**Student Film**

**Ava Bounds - Filmmaker**

A teenager on the cusp of adulthood flies through her entire future while stuck in a traffic jam.



## At Odds

**2:33 - Hillsborough, NJ**  
**Student Film**

**Anthony Truncale - Filmmaker**

A high school student struggles with negative thoughts as he copes with the stress of life and school.

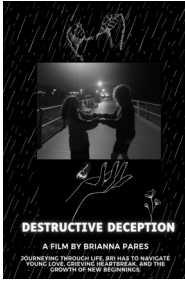


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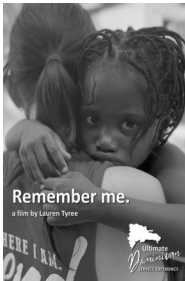
## Destructive Deception

**6:02- Wayne, NJ**  
**Student Film**

**Brianna Pares - Filmmaker**

Journeying through life, Bri has to navigate young love, grieving heartbreak, and the growth of new beginnings.

**Director Biography:** Brianna Pares is in the 12th grade at the Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne, NJ where she is studying film and television. She loves to observe the world around her and use those feelings to create pieces of artwork through her filmmaking.



## Remember me

**5:59 - Lincoln University, PA**  
**Student Film**

**Lauren P. Tyree - Filmmaker**

Documentary about a student led service trip to the Dominican Republic. Narrator and filmmaker, Lauren Tyree, tells how her new friends, Francesca and Esperanza, remind us of the power of human connection.

**Director Statement:** I am honored to share the transformative experience of serving in the Dominican Republic through this film. This project was truly a team effort and I am so blessed to get to work along side such beautiful & selfless classmates.



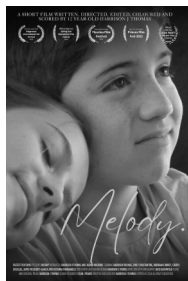
## Gone

**7:13 - Chesapeake, VA  
Student Film**

**Hunter Nickless - Filmmaker**

Luca, a teenage boy navigates life through his new surroundings, life lessons, and clouded memories.

**Director Statement:** Every film I make I try to focus on a new skill. In my previous 3 films I have focused on shot angles, special effects and story telling. For my new film, GONE, I wanted to use the skills I have learned the past 2 years making films but this time challenge my acting ability, in regards to connecting with the character and cinematography skills to create a meaningful and engaging film.



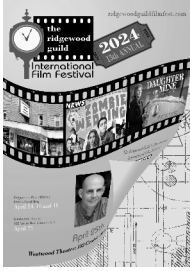
## Melody

**7:54 - Hampstead Gardens, Australia  
Student Film**

**Harrison J Thomas - Filmmaker**

Melody and her friend Ethan share a special bond. When tragedy strikes, Ethan's guilt compels him to seek absolution in a unique way. Melody is written, produced, directed, edited, scored, coloured and starring 12 year-old Harrison Thomas.

**Director Statement:** The film reveals a song's composition as Ethan grapples with grief and guilt, paying tribute to his friend in the only way he can control. Melody is the embodiment of the song she inspired.



## The Ridgewood Guild Film Festival Documentary

**13:45 - Ridgewood, NJ**  
**Student Film**

**Mia Ariel Antaramian - Filmmaker**

A documentary that uncovers all the hard work that is put into the Ridgewood Film Festival. Learn about struggles and hardships, but also successes and victories faced when running the festival. What did we learn from past festivals, and what does the future hold?



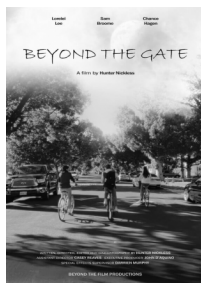
## Office Life

**4:34 - Monroe Township, NJ**  
**Student Film**

**Lance Albert Drake - Filmmaker**

A Mockumentary About a Coffee-Addicted Office Worker.

At the age of nine I got an ipad mini. On that day I made a stop-motion film with my toys, which evolved into not only cinematography, but photography. Videos changed to more than just my hobby, but my future.



## Beyond the Gate

**6:11 - Chesapeake, VA**  
**Student Film**

**Hunter Nickless - Filmmaker**

Group of friends who love exploring abandoned places come across a deserted school with a disturbing back story and discover a dark secret that changes their lives.

**Director Statement:** The story, directing, filming and editing was done by myself and overseen by my teachers. All graphics are custom made by myself, no stock footage. My goal was to challenge myself to learn more editing, special effects and direct actors to create a film.



## Black Care

**3:48 - Arlington, VA**  
**Student Film**

**John Joseph Monaco - Filmmaker**

Life and meaning at Smitty's Barbershop.

I was 16 years old when I made this documentary.

John Monaco is a Junior Student at Duke Ellington School of the Arts in the Cinematic Arts Department. He is a graduate of the Tisch Future Filmmakers Workshop at New York University and is passionate with regard to all aspects of filmmaking.



## RENATA (FC)

5:15 - Newark, NJ

Student film

**Luisa Santos - Filmmaker**

A horrible, life-changing event forces a young woman to confront her demon.



## American Dream

2:55- McLean, VA

Student film

**Renee Shi - Filmmaker**

This is a story of a young girl's day at school, bright and cheerful until the sound of gunshots rings in her ears. Her best friend dies in the shooting, and she must walk through the tainted hallways of her school once again. This animation is dedicated to the victims of school shooting tragedies.

**Director Biography:** Renee Shi was born in Fairfax, Virginia, and is the daughter of two first-generation Chinese immigrants. At 14 years old, she is currently a student at Langley High School. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, animating, writing, and crocheting. She is an avid advocate of gun control and founded the all-girls non-profit organization “Girls Against Gun Violence” to help the victims of gun violence.

**Director Statement:** The world is a better place without gun violence.





## First Date

**5:00 - Park Ridge, NJ**  
**Student Film**

**Michael DeMar, Caroline Sheridan - Filmmakers**

Zoe May is more than thrilled when Trent Calloway asks her on a date. Insisting he's the perfect boy, Zoe recounts her dreamy date in this high-energy, laughter-packed short film. However, she seems to have overlooked what the obviously criminally-inclined Trent had actually been doing during their evening together.



## Please Call Me...

**5:52 - Farmington, CT**  
**Student Film**

**Rui Wang - Filmmaker**

In my cultural tradition, names are bestowed as precious gifts by our parents. Nevertheless, as I traversed the path of my upbringing, I found myself harboring reservations about the names bestowed upon me. These names elicited within me a complex blend of emotions, from identity quandaries to bewilderment, from moments of regret to wellsprings of joy. At certain junctures along my life's journey, I even contemplated relinquishing my original name in favor of a new one. However, a profound realization dawned upon me: my name serves as the indelible thread that binds me to my past, shaping the person I was and the person I have become. Names are not merely labels but precious gifts, each one bearing a unique significance.

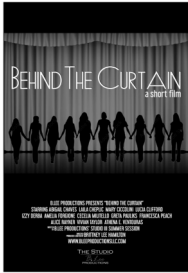


## Slate

**4:48 - Mountain Lakes, NJ**  
**Student Film**

**Mattea Conforti - Filmmaker**

Child actress Mattea Conforti goes on a series of auditions, and questions whether she should continue to do so.



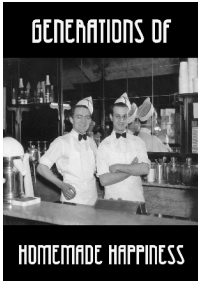
## Behind The Curtain

**8:57 - New Jersey**  
**Student Film**

**Abigail Chaves, Laila Cheplic, Mary Ciccolini,  
Lucia Clifford, Izzy Derba, Amelia Forgione,  
Cecelia Militello, Greta Pauliks, Francesca Peach,  
Alice Rayner, Vivian Taylor, Athena E Ventouras,  
- Filmmakers**

At an audition, the inner most thoughts of a group of young actors are revealed in the waiting room.

**Director Statement:** BEHIND THE CURTAIN was directed and written by STUDIO III SUMMER SESSION under the guidance of their teacher, Brittney Lee Hamilton. It was written during the first week, shot during the second week, and edited then screened during the third week of the summer session. All of the students are ages 11-14.



# Generations of Homemade Happiness

**3:18 - Westwood, NJ**  
**Student Film**

**Emma Lagatol - Filmmaker**

A student documentary from Westwood Regional High School. The arts of my hometown confectionery through generational relationships.





Westwood Cinemas – Theater 5  
 Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

4:00 pm – 5:11 pm - College Undergrad Student Films

4:00

Chroma	11:45
Bumper to Bumper	14:30
Blue Hour	10:36
Heartbeat by Heartbeat	22:40
Cricketts	11:27

*IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIFTH AND FINAL FILM ENDS, THE AUDIENCE SHOULD WALK QUICKLY TO THEATER 1 FOR THE PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE BEST STUDENT FILMMAKERS*

*THE RED CARPET OUTSIDE THE THEATER WILL FOLLOW THAT PRESENTATION.*

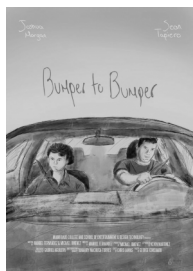


## Chroma

**11:45 - Los Angeles, CA**  
**Student, Undergraduate Film**

**Taoquan Fu - Filmmaker**

With a crucial basketball tryout just days away, Felix, a 17-year-old transfer student, is determined to shine on the court. While striving to present his best and most professional self, Felix grapples with the challenge of revealing his color blindness to his new teammates, friends, and family as he adapts to his unfamiliar surroundings, stubbornly declining assistance from others. As the day of the tryout finally arrives, Felix reluctantly discovers that differentiating players becomes incredibly difficult due to the team's shirt colors. Consequently, he makes several errors during the game, ultimately losing his chance.



## Bumper to Bumper

**14:30 - Hialeah, FL**  
**Student, Undergraduate Film**

**Manuel Fernandez - Filmmaker**

Anthony is a grieving man in need of peace following his friend Ben's suicide. Feeling largely responsible, he hopes to ease his conscience by teaching Ben's younger brother, Miles how to drive. Upon realizing Miles intended to establish a connection to grow closer to his estranged brother, Anthony struggles to offer any solace. Ignoring his needs and proceeding with the session leads to Miles crashing and tempers flaring. Anthony realizes to make amends with Miles he must open up and preserve Ben's memory. In doing so, Anthony reconciles with Ben and accepts a larger presence in Miles's life.



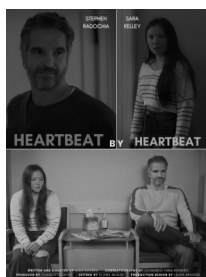
## Blue Hour

**10:36 - New York, NY**  
**Student, Undergraduate Film**

**Younging Jiang - Filmmaker**

A fire drill brings together four first-year college students who stayed in the dormitory during the winter break - revealing and evolving their relationships as strangers, friends, lovers, and exes.

**Director Biography:** Younging Jiang is a film-major undergraduate student at NYU Tisch. From Beijing to Los Angeles to New York, she is determined to become an inspirational, cross-cultural film director, writer, and actor.



## Heartbeat by Heartbeat

**22:40 - Braintree, MA**  
**Student, Undergraduate Film**

**Alex Shores - Filmmaker**

When a single father loses his job, he must find a way to pay for his daughter's heart surgery while struggling through the challenges of parenthood.

**Director Statement:** The purpose of this film is to illustrate some of the many challenges that come with heart conditions, but from the perspective of a single parent who works day and night to support a child with bradycardia.



## Crickets

**11:27 - Brooklyn, NY**  
**Student, Undergraduate Film**

**Macie Rose O'Neil - Filmmaker**

Two sisters go on an unsupervised adventure to find a missing dog in their neighborhood, and along the way their search leads to a subtle loss of innocence.

**Director Statement:** Crickets is a film about the in-between. The in-between of childhood and adulthood, the in-between of an adventure and discovery. This film is about process, initial contact, and above all, sisterhood.



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WESTWOOD CINEMAS  
THEATER 1 (Evening)

**Thursday, April 25th**



Westwood Cinemas – Theater 1 (Left)

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

THURSDAY APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 FROM 7:00 – 10:00 PM

7:05

Past Prologue	13:35
The Interview	8:23
Sundial	11:19
LifeQuest	24:55

8:04 Q&A with Filmmaker Richard Lounello.

8:08

Bay for Blood	18:00
Captive	11:20
Be Nice to Fish	13:49
The Self-Described Narrative of the Marvelous	25:44

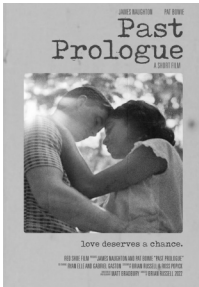
9:17 Q&A with Filmmaker Max Friedman

9:21

Daughter of Mine	36:23
------------------	-------

9:58 Q&A with the Director Vanessa Martino and the subject of her film, Rosemarie D'Alessandro.

The advertisement features a black and white portrait of Rosie Gunther MCOOE\* on the left. To the right, on a dark background, is the logo for The Viv Muldoon Group, which includes three house icons and the text "The Viv Muldoon Group" and "Licensed as Rosemary Gunther". Below this is the "CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE" logo, followed by the tagline "Art. Beauty. Provenance." and the website "christiesrealestate.com". At the bottom, contact information is provided: "M +1 201 602 8097 | O +1 201 962 9552", "E rosie@vivmuldoongroup.com", and "40 West Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ 07450".



## Past Prologue

**13:35 - Fairfield, CT**  
**Short**

**Brian Russell - Filmmaker**

An interracial couple reconnects after 60 years. Robert and Claudette have a chance encounter in a coffee shop, their first meeting since they dated over 60 years ago. As a Black girl and a white boy in 1957, their relationship never had a chance. A re-connection to memory, and discovery of feelings long buried takes them on an emotional journey through their past.



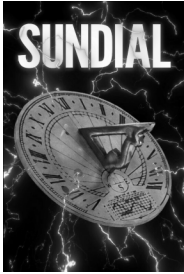
## The Interview

**8:23 - New York, NY**  
**Short**

**Mac Brydon - Filmmaker**

A film critic's interview with a mercurial Hollywood actor pushes her to confront both artistic and personal fears.

**Director Biography:** Mac hails from San Diego, California - a graduate of The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RSAMD). His home base is Greenwich Village, NYC.



## Sundial

**11:19 - Rancho Mission Viejo, CA  
Short**

**Jeff Gray - Filmmaker**

A physics professor experiences an unspeakable tragedy and must use his talents to undue the past.

**Director Statement:** Making movies is an impossible task. So if you're going to do this, you better believe in the impossible.



## LifeQuest

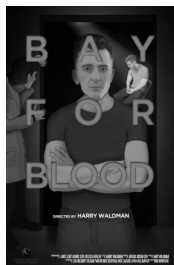
**24:55 - Albany, NY  
Short**

**Richard Lounello - Filmmaker**

A young physicist lives out his life in search of his greatest scientific discovery and finds one extraordinary truth.



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Wed - Sun 11 AM - 5PM  
Afternoon Tea | Private Events



## Bay for Blood

18:00 - Chicago, IL

Short

Harry Waldman - Filmmaker

James and Rob are hiding out in isolation to fix their mutual issues. As time progresses, the two reveal facts regarding their disturbing past relationship. An acquaintance of James', Jessica, finds herself in an uncomfortable position as she contemplates the best way to handle the situation.



## Captive

11:20 - Burbank, CA

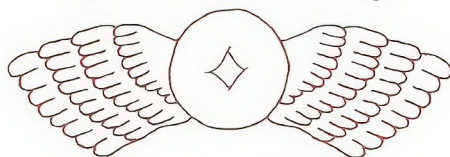
Short

Max Friedman, Brian Bayer - Filmmakers

On a getaway in the San Bernardino mountains, a beguiled young woman endures a series of strange occurrences at an isolated cabin.

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## Be Nice to Fish

**13:49 - Brooklyn, NY**  
**Experimental**

**Samuel B Russell - Filmmaker**

Two roommates fight about whether they should let the pizza delivery man use their bathroom, and the ethics of enjoying anchovy pizza in front of their new pet goldfish.



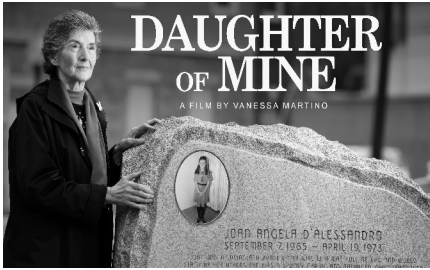
## The Self-Described Narrative

of the Marvelous Travels and Campaigns  
of Great, Great, Great Uncle  
Lt. Col. Barry V. Manchester

**25:44 - Cresskill, NJ**  
**Short**

**Glenn Allen - Filmmaker**

A 165-year-old man tells the story of his incredible life to his college-age Great, Great, Great niece, and teaches the young woman that it's not how long you live, but how you live.



## Daughter of Mine

**36:23 - New York, NY**

**Documentary**

**Vanessa Martino - Filmmaker**

In 1973, seven-year-old Joan D'Alessandro asked her mother Rosemarie if she could deliver a box of Girls Scout cookies to the neighbor and that was the last time Rosemarie saw Joan alive. Twenty years later, under the threat of the murderer's impending release, with the help of her community, Rosemarie fought to keep him in prison.

In her fight, Rosemarie D'Alessandro began a movement, bringing awareness to the impact parole hearings had on the well-being of families that have lost children to violent crime. As she fought for other families, her's began to break apart. Rosemarie became a symbol of hope for her community and a rallying point for victims' parents nationwide. She found strength in her memories of Joan and the belief that something good should come from what happened to her.

When I started to make this film, it was a portrait of a local hero; a mother who dedicated her entire life to her daughter's legacy. Throughout the process, it evolved into an exploration of Rosemarie's journey with grief. I wanted to examine grief as this universal human experience through the lens of the D'Alessandro family. What I did not expect was how I would evolve during the making of this film. Rosemarie introduced me to the incredible community she created for her and her sons and they welcomed me without pretense. Joan's Joy, the organization founded by Rosemarie, is a diverse open-hearted community dedicated to child safety but they are more than an advocacy group; they are a family.

Daughter of Mine is a portrait of a mother's love and loss. It is about the violent rupture of a family.



WESTWOOD CINEMAS  
THEATER 2 (Evening)

**Thursday, April 25th**

Westwood Theater – Theater 2 (Right)

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

THURSDAY APRIL 25<sup>th</sup> , 2024 FROM 7:00 – 10:00 PM

7:03

The Worst Best Man Ever

25:00

7:28 Audience to begin seating

7:30

Harlan Coben Interview, Reel and Q&A

25:00

7:55 Entry/Exit seating

8:00

Not the Same Clarence

14:24

8:15 Zombies enter the theater in costume, and Heart in Motion dancers perform.

8:20

The Zombie Wedding

01:39:08

9:59 Q&A with filmmakers and actors, and Best Costume Prize.



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## Guest Speaker Harlan Coben

This esteemed author has over 80 million books in print worldwide. Several of his books have been developed into Netflix original series including *Fool Me Once*, *The Stranger*, *Gone for Good*, *Safe*, and *Hold Tight*, as well as the Amazon Prime series adaptation of *Shelter*. Harlan lives in Bergen County with his wife, Anne Armstrong-Coben, MD.

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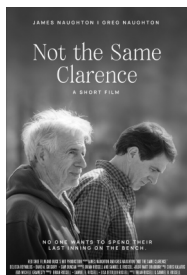
## The Worst Best Man Ever

25:00 - Rochester, NY

Short

David M Weilert - Filmmaker

Kevin asks his best friend Sam to be his best man, not realizing that Sam doesn't like his fiancé. A blast from the past shows up and he begins to question his relationship and his life choices.



## Not the Same Clarence

14:24 - Fairfield, CT

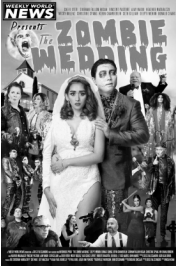
Short

Brian Russell and Samuel B Russell,  
Filmmakers

A man must come to terms with his father's Alzheimer's disease.

**Director Statement:** This story began years ago when Brian visited an older friend on a memory care ward, and the friend actually said the words now in the film: "I know the code. I can escape." From that seed, sprung the initial concept for this story. But it became our first-hand experience when Sam's grandfather (and Brian's father-in-law) began experiencing memory loss, and was subsequently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

## FEATURE FILM



# THE ZOMBIE WEDDING

**01:39:08 - HoHoKus, NJ**

**Feature**

**Micah Khan - Filmmaker**

A young Cumberland County, NJ couple decides to go through with their long-awaited wedding – during the Zombie Apocalypse. Unfortunately, he’s a zombie and she’s not. Both families are fearful, but the humans' behavior is barbaric. When the Zombies begin feeling brain deprived, the ceremony takes a turn for the weird. Weekly World News reporters are there to cover this wild wedding, while trying to get out alive!

For your enjoyment, look for the HeART in Motion dancing zombies!



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WESTWOOD CINEMAS  
THEATER 5 (Evening)

**Thursday, April 25th**

Westwood Theater – Theater 5 (Back)

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

Thursday APRIL 25<sup>th</sup> , 2024 FROM 7:00 – 9:47 PM

7:04

The Journey	3:38
Banana Tree	16:46
New York Minute	4:37
Undress me	16:00

7:46 Q&A with Filmmaker Scott Kane of Banana Tree

7:51

EXIT	5:13
MugShot	1:47
Why I Had To Kill You While You Slept	16:00

8:11 Q&A with Filmmaker Oriana Ng of EXIT

8:16

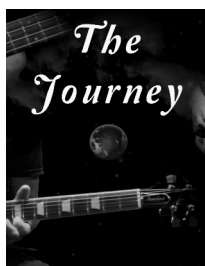
The Monarchs of Cape May	12:58
American Dream	2:55
Open Guard	33:24

9:05 Q&A with Filmmaker Ben Hubert of Open Guard

9:10

RIP, LOL	16:22
In Four Years	10:00
MEVO: From Farm to Feast	8:45

9:30pm – 12:30am AFTER PARTY AT THE IRON HORSE FOR  
FILMMAKERS AND THOSE WHO HAVE PRE-PURCHASED TICKETS



## The Journey

**3:38 - Bloomfield, NJ**  
**Music Video**

**Andrew Pearson - Filmmaker**

A guitar arrangement of the Bernie Holland song traces mans' evolution from the primordial swamp to self realisation.



## Banana Tree

**16:46 - Florida**  
**Animation**

**Scott Kane - Filmmaker**

In this magical world, a peculiarly sentient banana plant is threatened by a fast-moving epidemic. Will a solitary farmer enlist the help he needs in time to save the bananas?

BANANA TREE, told in a short animated dramatic comedy form, is ultimately a cautionary tale of one plant's vulnerability to a spreading TR4 Panama disease epidemic. In a remote field, an idealistic farmer contends with the practical questions posed by his only human friend, as he resists the temptation to quit. However, his ties to another companion, a favorite Banana Tree, pull him back again and again.



## New York Minute

**4:37 - New York, NY**  
**Experimental**

**Lynn Bianchi - Filmmaker**

This work continues Lynn Bianchi's relationship with New York City and its inhabitants - her home and inspiration since 1968. *New York Minute* was developed and created during lockdown - the year of loneliness and isolation - yet Lynn never felt lonely because the city was right outside her window - still alive and forever hopeful. A love letter to New York, this work is an abstraction of one day in the city - from dawn till dusk - moments that last a minute, or maybe a lifetime.



## Undress me

**16:00 - Paris, France**  
**International**

**Florent Médina, Maxime Vaudano**  
**- Filmmakers**

Antoine, a young introvert PhD student, pays Anaïs, a camgirl, for an online striptease. But Anaïs is tired of the camshows' routine and does not feel like undressing. She decides to impose her own rules: if Antoine wants her to undress, he has to take off his clothes as well. First distraught, Antoine ends up giving in to Anaïs' desire and joins her in a sensual striptease duo that will shake up his own idea of pleasure.





## EXIT

**5:13 - Brooklyn, NY**  
**Short**

**Oriana Ng - Filmmaker**

A dangerous elevator ride tests a couple's bond.

**Director Statement:** This story came to me as I was considering society's expectations of gender roles in a heterosexual relationship. Max and Marie are a strong and loving couple - they think of themselves as independent, modern, progressive. When they are attacked by two strangers in the elevator, Max, an upper middle-class, successful man, who always thought of himself as the provider, fails to protect Marie in that small but crucial moment.



## MugShot

**1:47 - Ridgewood, NJ**  
**Short**

**Paulina Knaak, Messalina Morley**  
**- Filmmakers**

A young couple's fight about house chores escalates to an absurd end.

**Director Statement:** MugShot started as a writing challenge for myself. I wanted to see if I could write a compelling, comedic and complete story that was less than 90 seconds. I focused on a feeling many of us have, the fear of adopting our parents' worst qualities.

AMANDA GREER DENISE REED



# Why I Had To Kill You

While You Slept

16:00 - Manalapan Township, NJ

Short

Anthony Marinelli - Filmmaker

A dark comedy about a not-so-desperate housewife who decides to kill her terrible husband and enlists her best friend for moral support. Based on true stories by Lisa Riva and Bradley Griffiths.

**Director Statement:** I like stories that are gritty and dark but also funny because it's through humor that we discover the ways we are all connected. We all have our demons, we all love passionately or intensely, and we all find ourselves broken at times. It is my goal as a filmmaker and director to dig below the surface and find the truth in human behavior, strip away the social masks, and perhaps find a way to laugh at ourselves.



# The Monarchs of Cape May

12:58 - Brooklyn NY Documentary

Katarina Pittis - Filmmaker

A documentary on the critical role that Cape May, NJ plays in the eastern migration of monarchs to Mexico each year. It follows members of the New Jersey Audubon and Monarch Monitoring Project as they tag and track the monarchs passing through.



## American Dream

2:55 - McLean, Virginia  
Student Film

**Renee Shi - Filmmaker**

This is a story of a young girl's day at school, bright and cheerful until the sound of gunshots rings in her ears. Her best friend dies in the shooting, and she must walk through the tainted hallways of her school once again. This animation is dedicated to the victims of school shooting tragedies.

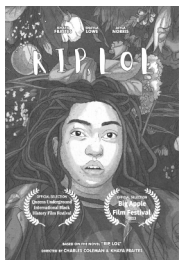


## Open Guard

33:24 - New Jersey  
Documentary

**Ben Hubert - Filmmaker**

As Ben approaches his 40th birthday, haunted by missed opportunities, he grapples with an unfinished documentary on his decade-old passion for Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). Having never stepped into the ring himself, Ben yearns to understand the visceral experience of fighters. Fueled by a newfound determination to live without regrets, he embarks on a transformative journey taking up MMA training and resurrecting his documentary.



## RIP, LOL

16:22 - New York, NY  
Short

**Charles Coleman, Khaya Fraites - Filmmakers**

NYU Student, Willow, goes back home to Richmond, Virginia with her best friend Jackie as her support system, to see her parents and 'celebrate' what would have been her older brother's 26th birthday. RIP, LOL is an examination of grief and how loss affects an entire family.

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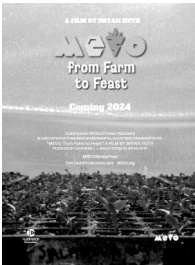


## In Four Years

**10:00 - Elizabeth, NJ**  
**Documentary**

**Hedi B. Asencio - Filmmaker**

A man, Jesus Armando Cruz, reflects on a special bond he shares with his uncle Jonny and the game of soccer. After the passing of a family member, he makes a promise to fulfill his uncle's last wish of attending a World Cup final.



## MEVO: from Farm to Feast

**8:45 - New Jersey**  
**Documentary**

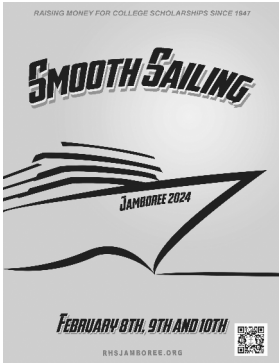
**Bryan Huth - Filmmaker**

The youth-led farmers of MEVO take us on a tour of the land and the importance of reaching your local community by hosting an annual farm-to-table gala.



## Jamboree 2024 Theater 3 (Upstairs)

7:00 to 9:30pm



## Smooth Sailing

2:30:00 - Ridgewood NJ

## Variety Musical

**Karen Fritz, Michael Grossano**

**Andrea Leonarz,**

**Heather Zynczenko - Filmmakers**

The 2024 production of Jamboree takes us on a cruise through singing, dancing and acting.

Since 1947, RHS Jamboree parent and guardian volunteers have presented an original musical revue to raise need-based scholarship funds for college-bound Ridgewood High School seniors.

In 2023-24, RHS Jamboree raised an amazing \$244,000 in scholarship funds! In fact, over the last 15 years, RHS Jamboree has raised more than \$2 Million for hundreds of worthy applicants. All fund revenues are raised through program advertising, ticket sales, and corporate and individual sponsorships.

Thank you to our generous community of support for helping make a difference in the lives of these deserving young adults.

End of Festival

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