

Writers In Treatment Presents:

**COMPLETE SCHEDULE**

**8th Annual**

**OCT. 21-27  
2016**

**REEL RECOVERY  
FILM FESTIVAL**

- FEATURES
- SHORTS
- DOCS
- FELLOWSHIP
- SPECIAL EVENTS

**Laemmle NoHo Cinema**

5240 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601

[www.reelrecoveryfilmfestival.org](http://www.reelrecoveryfilmfestival.org)

# THURSDAY

# OCTOBER 20

## OPENING NIGHT "STICK WITH THE WINNERS" RECEPTION & FILM SPONSORED BY



Betty Ford Center  
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### 5:30 to 7:30 PM

### Salomi Indian & Bangladeshi Restaurant

5225 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91601 Across the street from the Laemmle Noho. FULL BUFFET, authentic Indian cuisine. This event is free for sponsors, filmmakers and invited guests. All others, Suggested donation: \$25.00

**Come Meet Our Sponsors:** Luminance, Recovery Guild, Benchmark Transitions, Changing Tides, Villa Kali Ma, Kay White, Ridgeview Ranch, Cycles of Change, Joe Hunter, The Treatment Specialist, Marissa Katrin Maldonado, Kids in the Spotlight, Inc., Tres Vistas Recovery, Dr. Daniel Headrick, Best Rehabilitation, The Canyon Treatment Center, Social Model Recovery Systems, Beacon House, Jerry McDonald, His House/New Creations, William Tommy Vaughan, Vally Recovery Centers, Arthur Mogilevski, Balboa Horizons, Paul Moen, Art of Recovery, Barbara Brown, Pacific Coast Detox, Betty Ford Center, Compassion4Addiction, Paradigm Malibu, Miracles In Action and more...

### 8:00 PM

### Screenagers

(2016) Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston learned that the average kid, including hers, spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. In SCREENAGERS, Delaney takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Director Delaney Ruston. 70 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director Delaney Ruston**

Schedule subject to change



## WRITERS IN TREATMENT

Writers In Treatment (WIT) offers free referrals to local and national treatment providers for individuals suffering from alcoholism or addiction. We publish the weekly Addiction/ Recovery eBulletin® and produce the national REEL Recovery Film Festival & Symposium™ and the Experience, Strength & Hope Awards Show.®

Writers In Treatment produces and presents culturally significant events dedicated to improving the quality of recovery by reducing stigmas associated with alcoholism and addiction. We believe it's important for people in recovery, and those on the cusp, to have entertaining and culturally stimulating events that inspire enthusiasm for clean and sober living.

### The REEL Recovery Film Festival & Symposium®

A multi-city event celebrating films that focus on addiction, alcoholism and recovery. This festival and symposium offers direct interaction with filmmakers, addiction specialists, therapists and others who share an appreciation for films that honestly portray the journey through addiction to recovery, and the valuable life lessons learned.

#### Writers in Treatment:

Leonard Lee Buschel: Founder, Chairman  
Ali Brell, Programming Director • Chris Lukather, Graphic Designer

P.O. Box 1745, Studio City, CA 91614 • 818-762-0461

[www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org)

# FRIDAY

# OCTOBER 21

## 7:00 PM

### Meet & Greet Filmmakers from Twelve Steps & The Frogmarch Lobby of Laemmle NoHo Theater

## 7:30 PM

### Twelve Steps

(2015) TWELVE STEPS takes you on the journey of a young couple, Hank and Angie, who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. When Angie and Hank take the necessary steps to get clean they learn that Angie is pregnant. Overwhelmed with guilt and the pressures of dealing with a newborn with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Angie begins to secretly spiral. Starring Dan Sanders-Joyce and Kristy Johnson. Director Paula Bryant-Ellis. 21 minutes. FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER

**IN PERSON: Director Paula Bryant-Ellis**

## 8:00 PM

### The Frogmarch (CALIFORNIA FILM PREMIERE)

(2015) "The Frogmarch" tells an intimate story about a group of well-intended friends who stage a drug-intervention. While Travis, after serving five years, is being released from prison. His closest friends gather at a scenic lake house to celebrate his homecoming, but the weekend is not going to go as smoothly as they planned. Secrets are exposed. Relationships are torn apart. All of their skeletons are dragged into the light. For the next three days, they are forced to confront their own demons and, in the process, each other. Director Jonathan D'Ambrosio. 110 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director, Star Jonathan D'Ambrosio, Producer, Star Matt Flynn**



# SATURDAY

# OCTOBER 22

## 1:00 PM

### The 13th Step

(2015) The 13th Step is a feature-length documentary that brings into doubt every positive aspect of Alcoholics Anonymous. This film claims the worldwide group has become a haven for sexual predators and violent criminals due to court ordered plea-bargaining. It shows how predators are using the anonymity factor to prey on society's most vulnerable members. The film condemns AA like no other movie ever made. Director Monica Richardson. 70 minutes

**IN PERSON: Please come meet the woman responsible for this wholesale indictment of AA – Director Monica Richardson**

## 3:00 PM

### My Name is Bill W.

(1989) Based on the true story of Bill W. (James Woods), a successful stock broker whose life falls apart after the stock crash of the '20s and how he comes to grips with his alcoholism. Along with a fellow alcoholic (James Garner) he forms a support group that would eventually become Alcoholics Anonymous. There is a crucial moment in this film when Bill W., stranded in Akron, Ohio, after a business deal falls through, paces a hotel lobby with his eyes drawn to the cocktail lounge, and in desperation hears himself saying on the phone, "I need to talk to another drunk." That leads to his historic first meeting with Dr. Bob Smith, an Akron surgeon whose drinking was endangering his career and the lives of his patients. This 'creation' tale of AA is like The Greatest Story Ever Told. Director Daniel Petrie. 100 minutes

## 5:00 PM

### Witness to a Miracle: The Mary Sieberling Tapes

(2016) Kathy Anderson sits down with Mary Seiberling, the daughter of Henrietta Seiberling who introduced Bill Wilson to Dr. Bob in their Gate House on June 13, 1935. Mary recounts how she recalls her mother's motivation to make that introduction and what came of it as a result. She also shares about the first AA meetings held at the Gate Lodge. Essential viewing for all AA History buffs. Director Kathy Anderson. 40 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director Kathy Anderson and friends**

Schedule subject to change



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# SATURDAY

# OCTOBER 22



## 7:00 PM **Stay Awake**

(2015) "Stay Awake" follows two teenage brothers through the weekly routine of taking their mother to the hospital to detox her from a prescription drug addiction. When it becomes clear that their mother may never change, both brothers have to decide whether to continue trying to help her, or move on. Director Jamie Sisley. 14 minutes – STUDENT PROJECT

**IN PERSON: Director Jamie Sisley and Producer Sarah Dorman**



## 7:30 PM **Extended Release**

(2016) Tim moves away from New Hampshire to Los Angeles to escape his dark past and to find sobriety. He struggles in a new place to find his bearings without losing himself. When he meets Peyton, he is forced to choose between facing sobriety and leaving his best friend ... again. Director Erica Tamposi. 20 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director and Producer Erica Tamposi**



## 8:00 PM **Puncture**

(2011) TRUE STORY. Mike Weiss (Chris Evans) is a talented young Houston lawyer and a classic real life functioning drug addict. Paul Danziger (co-director Mark Kassen), his longtime friend and partner, is straight-laced and responsible. Their mom-and-pop personal injury law firm is getting by, but things really get interesting when they take on a case involving a local ER nurse, who is pricked by a contaminated needle on the job. As Weiss and Danziger dig deeper into the case, a health care and pharmaceutical conspiracy is uncovered. Out of their league but rich in their own principles, the mounting pressure of the case pushes these underdogs to the breaking point, and point of no return. Directors Adam Kassen and Mark Kassen. 100 minutes

# SUNDAY

# OCTOBER 23



## 1:00 PM

## LIVE: IN PERSON!



## KIDS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Kids in the Spotlight, Inc. (KITS)**, founded in May 2009, provides underprivileged youth with an introduction to and training for the art of filmmaking. Our program trains youth in foster care programs and other under served youth to create, write, cast and star in their own short films. K.I.T.S. provides a safe environment for kids to express themselves while cultivating interest in film industry careers, which are so prevalent in Los Angeles. Additionally, it fosters teamwork, creativity and discipline resulting in better self-image and a sense of accomplishment that will engender a greater belief in kids' ability to rise above their current social and economic conditions in order to realize their dreams.

**ANOTHER WAY OUT** Director Ed Broadus. Written by Ashly Gomez-Lopez and Kristine Janine Torres. 9 minutes

**ANSWER THAN** Director David Mammudieh. Written by Nick Christiansen, Gryalen Dale, Tyler Dominguez, Armando Gobson, Nicky Koff, Jr. and Gissele Reyes. 9 minutes

**DRIZZLE OF HOPE** Director D.W. Brown. Written by Ruby Gomez, Rosemary Hollowell, Clarissa Johnson and Colleen Marrin. 9 minutes

**HEAVENS HARD PITCHES** Director Mo McRae. Written by Kera Drewry and Carissa Johnson. 9 minutes

**LAST CHANCE** Director Johnny Silver. Written by Genova Cisneros, Lawrence Course, Andrew Hagopian, Roberto Herrera and Daniel Royzman. 8 minutes

**SUESVILLE** Director Brandon Brody. Written by Mariah Brown, Tiana Renee Cooper, Monique Moreno and Destinee Phillips. 9 minutes.

**THAT ONE SMILE** Director Reggie Gaskins. Written by Elbrece Bailey, Lizbeth Camarillo, Alexia Olivan, Joykierra Thurman and Endia K. Wilson. 10 minutes

**WHAT LAYS IN TIFFANY'S MIND?** Director T. Faye Griffin. Written by Brianna Cochran and Diane Guzman. 8 minutes.

**NIGHTMARE** Director T. Faye Griffin. Written by Rubo Gallo, Richard Kim, Jennifer Ruiz and Carolina Schumber. 9 minutes

**IN PERSON: K.I.T.S. Founder Tige Charity, K.I.T.S. Board Chair Gregory Metzger and Young Filmmakers and Performers**

Schedule subject to change

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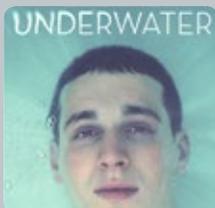
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**3:00 PM** **Shorts on a Sunday Afternoon****Breakfast**

(2016) When a young man suffering from anorexia is pressured to eat breakfast by his boyfriend, the couple are thrust into another world where their anxieties and frustrations are made ingeniously, horrifyingly real. Director Tyler Byrnes. 10 minutes

**Under Water**

(2016) A susceptible teenager, trying to rise above the tumult of his home, drowns himself in alcohol, drugs, and parties. Under Water is based on a true story. Written, Produced and Directed by Bryan Fitzgerald. 14 minutes

**The Journey**

(2015) A teenage girl who lives with her pill addicted mother and alcoholic father runs away from home to find help in an unlikely place with an unlikely ally who truly knows what this troubled girl is going through. Director Takafumi Sakabe. 6 minutes

**Kids from the Other Side**

(2015) Drug overdose is now the #1 cause of accidental death in the United States. We have seen a 184% increase in fatal overdoses in only 3 years. The Other Side is the result of studies of hundreds of high school aged kids who have never abused a substance and found a common key to their success. If middle school-aged kids make a commitment to never use drugs before they are faced with peer pressure they are more likely to stick to that goal. Director Dominic Tierno. 18 minutes

**IN PERSON: Dr. Daniel Headrick**

**4:30 PM** **Buried Above Ground**

(2016) BURIED ABOVE GROUND embeds in its three subjects' lives over a six year journey using subjective framing, vérité, interviews, and personal video archives. We meet three Americans who are fighting ongoing battles with PTSD — Luis, a combat veteran; Erundina, a lifelong survivor of domestic violence who fights addiction issues; and Ashley, a New Orleanian who lived through Hurricane Katrina and returns to confront the aftermath. We gain access to their therapy sessions, home life, and efforts to embrace community all the while trying to unburden themselves from the crippling lock of their past traumas. Director Ben Selkow. 78 minutes

**7:00 PM** **Chasing Yesterday**

(2015) A washed up twenty something year old, who was once the hometown hero and track star, is convinced by a local sweetheart to run a marathon and get his life back on track. Starring **Eric Nelsen (A Walk Among the Tombstones)**, **Courtney Baxter (Sharknado)** and **Josh Flitter (Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind)**. Director Joseph Pernice. 91 minutes

**9:00 PM** **Pure**

(2002) Following the death of Mel's husband, she comes to rely on an old friend, Lenny, who is also a pimp and dealer. Soon her 10-year-old son Paul must take care of both his mother and his younger brother. When Mel's friend and fellow user dies, Paul must confront the fear that has been gathering in the pit of his stomach: having lost his father, his mother too may abandon him. Starring Keira Knightley, Molly Parker and Harry Eden. Director Gillies MacKinnon. 96 minutes.

TRIGGER WARNING

## 1:00 PM Monday Afternoon Shorts – Part 1



### In-Between the Scripts

(2015) UNITED KINGDOM - An experimental film about a man suffering from mental health issues, who, while taking anti-psychotic medications experiences traumatic aftermath physical and psychological aftermath. Director Stacey Larkins. 5 minutes



### The Betrayal

(2015) An auto ethnographic film exploring personal experience of the abuse of trust and power within a toxic psychiatrist-patient relationship. Fragments of medical records are interwoven with hypnotic, pulsing pills, creating a disorienting yet seductive montage. At its dark heart, The Betrayal is a twisted, deadly love affair. A real crowd pleaser. Director Susan Young. 5 minutes



### Stay Awake

(2015) "Stay Awake" follows two teenage brothers through the weekly routine of taking their mother to the hospital to detox her from a prescription drug addiction. When it becomes clear that their mother may never change, both brothers have to decide whether to continue trying to help her, or move on. Director Jamie Sisley. 14 minutes – STUDENT PROJECT



### I Am Borderline

(2016) CANADA - Writer and Director Betsy Usher along side with Wright Institute Los Angeles: Self-Regulation Project created a film to help reduce the stigma of Borderline Personality Disorder and to educate us about the struggles of and create empathy for those who live with it. Director Betsy Usher. 5 minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER



### Static

(2016) CANADA - Jake struggles with his depression, which comes to life in somewhat of a human form. A black comedy short film about depression, anxiety, inner demons ... and a guitar. Director Jordan Backman. 8 minutes – STUDENT PROJECT



### Welcome to Where You've Always Been

(2015) This is a short story about a champion spoken word poet named Devyn Duncan who has everything, but is blind to the blessings around him. He must find a way to overcome his depression and demons before his overwhelming desire to end his life wins the battle. He turns to alcohol to cope with the pain while hiding his suicidal thoughts from his wife, but she has a secret of her own which could change everything. Directors Mary Lou Sandler and Justin Sandler. 16 minutes

**IN PERSON: Directors Mary Lou Sandler and Justin Sandler**



### Uphill

(2016) In the aftermath of a suicide attempt, Stella and Dominic are forced to deal with the causes, emotions, and relationship drama that surround her depression. Director Matt Gossen. 14 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director Matt Gossen and Writer Lex Graboski**



## 3:00 PM Monday Afternoon Shorts – Part 2

### 6 Months & 4 Days

(2014) On an ordinary Sunday in Coney Island, Aaron, a recovering alcoholic and his girlfriend Rose struggle to keep their relationship together. Director Ali Kemal Guven. 4 minutes

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**3:00 PM Monday Shorts - Part 2 – cont.****Twelve Steps**

(2015) TWELVE STEPS takes you on the journey of a young couple, Hank and Angie, who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. When Angie and Hank take the necessary steps to get clean they learn that Angie is pregnant. Overwhelmed with guilt and the pressures of dealing with a newborn with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Angie begins to secretly spiral. Starring **Dan Sanders-Joyce** and **Kristy Johnson**. Director Paula Bryant-Ellis. 21 minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER

**IN PERSON: Director Paula Bryant-Ellis**

**One Too Many**

(2015) UNITED KINGDOM - When a drunken night out gets the better of him, Joe's inner self steps in to set him on the road to recovery where a killer hangover awaits. A brilliant animated short by Sinead Stoddart. 2 minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER.

**Square One**

(2016) Ryan is a 30-year-old alcoholic, yearning to escape the torment of his own behavior. Despite drowning in guilt and shame, his drinking habits have only worsened. Ryan finally desecrates to seek help. His path takes him through challenges and lessons along the way. Director Ryan Slattery. 16 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director Ryan Slattery**

**Step 9**

(2015) Two friends, one in recovery and one decidedly not, set off on a road trip to make amends and find that being forgiven is not as easy as it seems. Starring **Mary Elizabeth Ellis** (*It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*) and **Artemis Pebdani** (*Sex Tape*) Director Lenora Pitts. 13 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director Lenora Pitts**

**5:00 PM Wasted**

(2015) CANADA - Filmmaker Maureen Palmer set out to follow her life partner — an alcoholic 5 years sober — on a search for the best new evidence-based addiction treatments. But just as filming begins, he drinks again — and a theoretical journey becomes very real and deeply personal. Director Maureen Palmer. 44 minutes

**7:00 PM I Smile Back**

(2015) Laney Brooks does bad things. Married with kids, she takes the drugs she wants, sleeps with the men she wants, disappears when she wants. Now, with the destruction of her family looming, and temptation everywhere, Laney makes one last desperate attempt at redemption. Starring Sarah Silverman. Director Adam Salky. 85 minutes

**9:00 PM Basquiat**

(1996) Basquiat in New York tells the story of the meteoric rise of youthful artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. Starting out as a street artist, living in Thompkins Square Park in a cardboard box, Jean-Michel is "discovered" by Andy Warhol's art world and becomes a star. But success has a HIGH price, and Basquiat pays with friendship, love, and eventually, his life. A star making performance by Jeffrey Wright. Director Julian Schnabel. 108 minutes



## 1:00 PM **The Frogmarch (ENCORE PRESENTATION)**

(2015) "The Frogmarch" tells an intimate story about a group of well-intended friends who stage a drug-intervention. While Travis, after serving five years, is being released from prison. His closest friends gather at a scenic lake house to celebrate his homecoming, but the weekend is not going to go as smoothly as they planned. Secrets are exposed. Relationships are torn apart. All of their skeletons are dragged into the light. For the next three days, they are forced to confront their own demons and, in the process, each other. Director Jonathan D'Ambrosio. 110 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director, Star Jonathan D'Ambrosio, Producer, Star Matt Flynn**



## 3:00 PM **Chasing the Dragon**

(2015) This documentary film produced by the FBI, profiles the stories of several people who either abused opiates or had family members become addicts. It profiles the cycle of addiction and looks at the tragic consequences associated with opioid abuse. The film features interviews with medical and law enforcement professionals discussing the effects of the addiction, and how this epidemic is unlike any this country has seen before. "This film may be difficult to watch, but we hope it educates our students and young adults about the tragic consequences that come from abusing these drugs..." - FBI. Director James Comey. 45 minutes - TRIGGER WARNING

**IN PERSON: TBD**



## 5:00 PM **Shorts on a Tuesday Evening**

### **Porcupine**

(2015) **W. Earl Brown** (DEADWOOD, TRUE DETECTIVE, and the new ABC hit, AMERICAN CRIME) stars as a country music star in this classic country music tale of heartache, loss and hope. On the eve of his induction into the Hall of Fame, a mystery woman from his past appears. They discover they have much in common: music, whiskey, and their prickly personalities. Can these two porcupines lower their quills and form a bond, or will they be alone forever. Director Sabrina Doyle. 14 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director Sabrina Dolye and Producer Lisa Cirincione**

### **My Brother's Keeper**

(2015) The struggle of two brothers: one who battles his demons; the other fights to stop his enabling tendencies to his brother's alcoholism. Director Rachael Meyers. 11 minutes – STUDENT FILMMAKER

### **The Wagon**

(2016) Before he can celebrate one year of sobriety, Jake Anderson must face the one thing he fears most: The ultimate betrayal by his girlfriend, Christy. With the help of Donnie, his sponsor and true friend, Jake will discover the true meaning of a clean and sober life. Director Wilkie Cooper. 9 minutes

### **Behind Bars**

(2016) Behind Bars is a semi-autobiographical allegory and a dramatic look at actors, the film industry and drug and alcohol addiction. Shot in NYC. Starring and directed by Jeff Wincott. 15 minutes — FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER

### **Coco**

(2015) This short takes a unique look at addiction as it is played out between a young woman, Donna, and her "best friend," CoCo. Donna takes CoCo everywhere she goes; Coco forces Donna to make horrible, life changing choices. Director Joanna White-Oldham. 7 minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER

**IN PERSON: Joanna White-Oldham**



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**5:00 PM Tuesday Evening Shorts - cont.****Milk**

(2015) A man will stop at nothing to get his fix of milk. Stemming from a Virginia law that makes it illegal to sell raw milk, this tale of satisfying an addiction was born. Director/Co-Producer Patrick Willard. 8 minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER

**Facing the Shadows**

(2016) When a lonely alcoholic is abandoned by his friends and family, he is forced to confront his inner most fears. During a 24 hour drinking binge, he wrestles with the addictions stemming from his abusive childhood. Finally hitting rock bottom, he decides to take the matter of recovery in his own hands. Director Freddie Conor. 3 minutes

**Damaged**

(2015) Sadie Upshaw is a lawyer who is battling her inner demons. While her day to day may look like a boring 9-5 she is riddled with dark memories. Sadie fights to not repeat the past and to learn from her previous self. This film is a commentary on addiction and attempts to show the intrigue vs. reality of substance abuse. Director Erin Kirby. 6 minutes - STUDENT FILM

**5:00 PM Anita O'Day: The Life of a Jazz Singer**

(2007) A documentary look at the improvised life of Anita O'Day (1919-2006), singer and stylist whose timing, phrasing, interpretations, and unique sound put her among the finest vocalists of jazz. Interviews with her late in life are interspersed with archival footage of performances and old interviews as well as with comments by friends, arrangers, critics, and other musicians. She talks about singing without a uvula (sing eighth notes), of jail time for a marijuana arrest, of taking and kicking heroin, of finally making money after appearing at the Newport Jazz Festival, of loss, of a broken arm that almost cost her life, and of living in 4/4 time, one day at a time, smiling. Directors Robbie Cavolina and Ian McCrudden. 90 minutes

**8:00 PM As I Am: The Life & Times of DJ AM**

(2015) AS I AM: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DJ AM covers the late, great mash-up pioneer's entire life from seed to sorrow: his meteoric rise to become the first million dollar DJ in the U.S., his storied personal life including a long-running struggle with addiction, titanic efforts to help others in recovery, his tabloid romances as well as his survival from a fiery plane crash with Blink 182 drummer Travis Barker, which is all a lead-up to his controversial and untimely death in 2009. Director Kevin Kerslake. 110 minutes

**IN PERSON: TBD**

Schedule subject to change

**Don't Forget to Vote on November 8**  
The Future of the planet may depend on it.

## 1:00 PM **Double Down – Two Films on Gambling Addiction**



### **Empty Spaces**

(2015) This award-winning drama, created for The New York Council on Problem Gambling, looks at the issue of Seniors suffering from gambling addiction and the impact it has on their family and friends. The film was written and directed by Emmy® Award-Winner, Richard T. Wilson of the nationally recognized production company, OutreachArts, Inc. Director Richard T. Wilson. 18 minutes



### **Ka-Ching! Pokie Nation**

(2015) They're rigged, they're addictive and they're everywhere. But does the problem lie with the individual or the machine? Ka-Ching! goes inside the machine to find out, speaking with the masterminds behind their design, plus neuroscientists, anthropologists, game theorists and more. Australia has rapidly become the pokies capital of the world, with five times more machines per capita than the USA. Australian's are losing a staggering \$19 billion a year, but everyone – players, industry and government – are hooked. Director Jane Manning. 54 minutes

## 3:00 PM **Wednesday Afternoon Shorts**



### **Damaged**

(2015) Sadie Upshaw is a lawyer who is battling her inner demons. While her day to day may look like a boring 9-5 she is riddled with dark memories. Sadie fights to not repeat the past and to learn from her previous self. This film is a commentary on addiction and attempts to show the intrigue vs. reality of substance abuse. Director Erin Kirby. 6 minutes - STUDENT FILM



### **Watermelon Eyes**

(2015) An overdue letter opens a window to the past for a broken alcoholic, who, blind to his addiction, must weigh his poison against the love of his life. Director Jeremy Silva. 12 minutes - FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER



### **Kevin's Story**

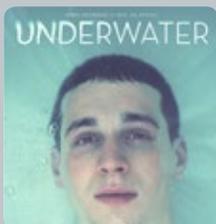
(2016) A single moment can alter your story forever. For Barry Adkins, that moment came one Sunday morning when three police officers arrived at his doorstep and handed him his son's drivers license. Director Chris Heck. 10 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director Chris Heck**



### **Last Words**

(2016) A broken heart is not easily healed. And when a young man faces his old love, he realizes that sometimes saying goodbye, is the hardest thing to do. Starring Courtney de la Rigaudiere and Adam Shiri. Director Adam Shiri. 6 minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER



### **Under Water**

(2016) A susceptible teenager, trying to rise above the tumult of his home, drowns himself in alcohol, drugs, and parties. Under Water is based on a true story. Written, Produced and Directed by Bryan Fitzgerald. 14 minutes

## 3:00 PM Wednesday Shorts - cont.

### Delray

(2015) This film features young men and women whose lives have been characterized by countless attempts to live intoxicated lives in the grey areas between good and evil, right and wrong. Given a chance at a new way of living the characters walk towards it earnestly. But who will make it out in the end? Directors Brittany Ackerman and Zach Stampone. 30 minutes

**IN PERSON: Directors Brittany Ackerman and Zach Stampone**



## 5:00 PM Trigger Warning

(2015) A documentary exploring the existence and subsequent consequences of rape jokes in the popular media.



## COMEDY NIGHT!

## 8:00 PM RITCH SHYDNER - LIVE

**IN-PERSON: RITCH SHYDNER**

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Schedule subject to change

## 2016-2017 REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVALS

New York	Sept. 23-29, 2016	Cinema Village	New York, NY
Los Angeles	Oct. 21-27, 2016	Laemmle NoHo	Los Angeles, CA
Ft. Lauderdale	Nov. 4-6, 2016	Gateway Cinema	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Denver	September 2017	Denver Film Society	Denver, CO
Houston	October 2017	TBA	Houston, TX
Boston	Pending - 2017	TBA	Boston, MA

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## 1:00 PM Thursday Afternoon Shorts – Part 1

### Heroin Addiction



#### Junkie Heaven

(2016) Doyle Burkett is an Iraqi war vet who is suffering from PTSD and he also happens to be a junkie willing to do anything to get his fix. After he wakes from a night of using, he is greeted by Alexander, a spiritual being who gives Doyle a mission. Now Doyle must steal an ancient artifact that will tip the scales of good versus evil or walk with Alexander into the afterlife. Director Lee Kolinsky. 18 minutes



#### Extended Release

(2016) Tim moves away from New Hampshire to Los Angeles to escape his dark past and to find sobriety. He struggles in a new place to find his bearings without losing himself. When he meets Peyton, he is forced to choose between facing sobriety and leaving his best friend ... again. Director Erica Tamposi. 20 minutes



#### Wanting

(2015) CANADA - The life of drug dealer Rick becomes intertwined with Caitlyn and Jackie, two roommates living in Toronto's west end. While the women wait impatiently for their next fix Rick finally arrives and provides Jackie with a packet of white powder. After getting high she hurriedly leaves. Rick and Caitlyn start the search for Jackie and find her unconscious in a nearby alley. Caitlyn is concerned but follows Rick as he leaves the scene. The pair talk in Caitlyn's kitchen about what to do next and an unexpected twist changes everything. Director Brian Woodford. 6 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director Brian Woodford**



#### Tyler Tabor

(2015) Powerful documentary. Tyler moved onto heroin when he could no longer get his opioids, his parents hoped he would get sober in jail and enter a rehab upon release ... The dark, deadly side of #PrisonProfiteering. Director Cheryl Hiltzik. 11 minutes

**IN PERSON: Director Cheryl Hiltzik**



#### The Weekend

(2016) A lonely man takes in a beautiful drifter for a weekend and discovers her dark secret of heroin use. Director Dennis Cahlo. 20 Minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER

## 3:00 PM Thursday Afternoon Shorts – Part 2

### Anxiety



#### Decision

(2016) Within an expanse of anxiety, a decision must be made. Decision is a short animated film that explores one woman's experience with anxiety and how she handles what she perceives as a daunting choice. Director Mary Jo Zefeldt. 3 minutes – STUDENT FILMMAKER. ANIMATED



#### Mercy

(2015) John picks up his family, having had a little too much to drink. The drive home turns into a nightmare and a lesson in God's mercy. Director Steven Frohardt. 14 minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER

**IN PERSON: Director Steven Frohardt**



#### Last Words

(2016) A broken heart is not easily healed. And when a young man faces his old love, he realizes that sometimes saying goodbye, is the hardest thing to do. Starring Courtney de la Rigaudiere and Adam Shiri. Director Adam Shiri.

6 minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER

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**3:00 PM Thursday Shorts – Part 2 - cont.****Anxiety****Blue**

(2015) This short watches a despondent dude, as he tries to get through his day ... not with a monkey on his back, but an ever present monster named Depression. Director Christopher Gregson. 6 minutes – FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER

**Not Without Us**

(2014) *Not Without Us* is a film deconstructing the complex issues at the heart of one of the most harmful forms of discrimination in America — the chronic abuse and stigmatization of people labeled mentally ill. Watch what happens when this group of people, often portrayed as a problem of society, bands together to redefine mental illness and reclaim their status as interesting members of society. Director Sam Avery. 28 minutes

**5:00 PM In the Spotlight**

(2015) At the peak of Earla's social phobia she was housebound for six years. During her recovery she founded and started the Social Phobia Support Group of Toronto, becoming the largest group of its kind in North America. Today she is challenged with unstable medication, supporting herself financially, and appearing in various media outlets as a mental health advocate. Can her passion to help others outweigh her fear of people? Director Katie Cooper. 64 minutes

**8:00 PM Dirty Beautiful**

(2015) David is a young, struggling writer very alone in the world. Kat is a sexy lost soul recently left homeless by her ex. Both survive on the fringe of life. So when Kat storms into David's life and throws out the crazy idea that they become an instant couple, David impulsively agrees and moves her into his tiny apartment. After some wild ups and downs, they make their home into a cave. A safe haven away from the world. But their retreat is fueled as much by drinking and escape as affection. Starring Ricky Mabe and Jordan Monaghan. Director Tim Bartell. 95 minutes



**IN PERSON: Director Tim Bartell**

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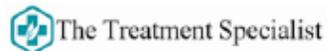
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