Writers In Treatment Presents:



Cinema Village

22 E. 12th Street, New York, NY 10003 www.reelrecoveryfilmfestival.org

Writers In Treatment

P.O Box 1745, Studio City, CA 91614 · (818) 762-0461

Mission

Writers In Treatment helps individuals suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction and other self-destructive behaviors get treatment for their disease. We produce educational and cultural events that celebrate recovery, reduce the stigma of addiction and the anonymity of recovery.

Vision

Rebuilding one's life need not be a solitary effort. Our vision is to provide the treatment and support individuals need to take their first step toward recovery. 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.

About Us

Writers In Treatment is an organization grounded in recovery and the arts. W.I.T.'s primary purpose is to save lives by providing scholarships for treatment, as the best first-step solution for addiction. We also offer referrals to local and national treatment providers. Our program is funded by individual contributions and sponsored events.

Board of Directors:

Leonard Buschel Founder, Chairman
Robert Downey Sr. Vice Chairman
Travis Koplow, Ph.D. Secretary
Glenn W. P. Major Treasurer

Paul Moen Darren Kavinoky



www.writersintreatment.org

REEL Recovery Film Festival - 2015

Founder and Director: Leonard Buschel

Associate Producers: Alexandra Brell, Allyson Weinhold

Design: Chris Lukather



2015 REEL Recovery Film Festivals

Denver San Francisco Houston New York Los Angeles Ft. Lauderdale Las Vegas May 29-31, 2015 June 11-14, 2015 Sept. 25-27, 2015 Oct. 16-21, 2015 Oct. 23-29, 2015 Nov. 6-8, 2015 2016 Denver Film Society
New People's Cinema
Council on Recovery
Cinema Village
Laemmle NoHo
Gateway Cinema
TBA

Denver, CO San Francisco, CA Houston, TX New York, NY Los Angeles, CA Ft. Lauderdale, FL Las Vegas, NV

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1 PM Bill W.

(2012) Bill W. tells the story of William G. Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous with Dr. Bob Smith. Bill W. was included in TIME Magazine's "100 Persons of the 20th Century." Interviews, recreations, and rare archival material reveal how Bill Wilson, a hopeless drunk near death from his alcoholism, found a way out of his own addiction and then forged a path for countless others to follow. **Directors Dan Carracino and Kevin Hanlon.** Starring Bill Wilson, Dr. Bob, Lois Wilson, Ebby Thatcher. 104 Minutes

IN PERSON: Director Dan Carracino



3_{PM} Royal Hangover

(2014) UNITED KINGDOM A Relevant portrait of a nation and its love of the drink. Critically acclaimed independent filmmaker and accomplished non-drinker, Arthur Cauty, serves up a documentary fireball, in equal parts shocking, hilarious, sympathetic and thought provoking; a film we can all toast to. Featuring Russell Brand. **Director Arthur Cauty.** 101 minutes



5PM Sponsor/Filmmaker Opening Reception EL CANTINERO RESTAURANT Sponsor/Filmmaker Reception

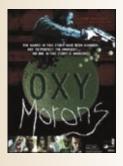
El Cantinero Restaurant, 86 University Pl., New York, NY 10003 b/t 12th St & 11th St. Around the corner from the Cinema Village. Patio dinning and authentic Mexican fare.



7_{PM} How I Got Over

HOW I GOT OVER follows 15 formerly homeless and/or incarcerated womennow living in N Street Village, a community for addiction recovery- as they craft an original play, based on their harrowing true-life stories. As observers of their creative process to the rehearsals for their Kennedy Center performance, we bear witness to their transformations from victim to artist, and to the performing arts' capacity to heal trauma, create connection, and start a conversation. Special Screening for the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. Director Nicole Boxer. 87 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Nicole Boxer



9:30_{PM} Oxy Morons

(2010) An action-packed thriller centering on the effects of OxyContin addition in a close-knit Boston community. Director Johnny Hickey brings his seedy, economically depressed neighborhood to life and how drug dealing can become a necessary defense against emotional annihilation. "People who walk out from Oxy-Morons will be talking about it long after they have seen it. A must-see movie for all of America." - Prescription Addiction Radio. Director Johnny Hickey. 111 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Johnny Hickey

Schedule subject to change



SATURDAY

1:00 PM

Shorts on a Saturday Afternoon



Reaching Out

(2015) This documentary takes a close look at the desperate phone call an addict makes for help. It's the first step. Those on the receiving end of that call will do anything to be of service and try to hang on to the soul that reaches out to them. **Director Matt Heckathorn.** 34 Minutes

IN PERSON: Director Matt Heckathorn and guests



Voices

(2014) The award-winning documentary, Voices, features the stark and intimate portraits of three very different individuals and their struggle with severe mental illness in America. The stories of Sharon, Thomas and Aaron illuminate the challenges, realities, and complex emotions and choices that surround people with psychotic mental illness and those who love them. **Director Hiroshi Hara and Gary Tsai.** 56 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Dr. Gary Tsai

3:00 PM



SLLiP

(2015) Based on true events, SLLiP is a heartfelt yet disturbing look into the life of a hard-working, blue collar, family man, who is injured at work and is prescribed pain medication. What should have been benign pain treatment has become a painful addiction-one that could destroy what he cherishes most – his beautiful wife and his treasured baby girl. Original score. **Director Rob Lewis.** 13 minutes IN PERSON: Writer/Producer Ricky Russert



An American Epidemic

(2015) From the Director of, "Kids Are Dying" comes a documentary film that took one state's problem to a national level. "An American Epidemic" grew out of a New Jersey project exposing the opioid and heroin epidemic and uncovers the far-reaching effects of America's most serious public social health crisis through the eyes of parents, siblings and recovering addicts. **Director Michael Deleon.** 90 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Michael DeLeon





Take Care

(2014) In this dramatic short, a young girl comes of age sooner than she should as she watches her mother cope with her tough life by drinking. **Director Danielle Dunnigan.** 10 minutes



Long Journey Home

(2011) Stephanie, the daughter of filmmaker Janelle Vigil, was a victim of incest and sexual abuse she endured at her stepfather's hands. The road to recovery was as harrowing as the experiences themselves. She hid out in bad relationships, alcohol, drugs and crime. Her recovery, however, has been a miracle, and she is generous enough to share this story. **Director Janelle Vigil.** 12 minutes

Schedule subject to change

Shorts on a Saturday

5:30 PM Shorts on a Saturday Evening - cont.



Good Words

(2014) This short and poignant film traces the story of Elizabeth, a gifted and highly qualified candidate attending a job interview. All appears to be going well until the conversation turns towards the subject of mental illness. **Director Robby Reis.** 10 minutes



Redemption 101

(2014) Thalia abuses drugs and has resorted to prostitution to support the habit that she began as a teen. Thalia enters a sober house for women to get clean. She's in a women's sober house and has four days clean when reality strikes. She is faced with losing custody of her infant daughter. **Director Sebastian Rothwyn.** 40 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Sebastian Rothwyn and Writer Valerie Campbell



7_{PM} Straight Outta Tompkins

(2015) A forlorn teenager's life spirals out of control in New York City. He transforms from a troubled kid to an accidental addict after mistaking the welcoming embrace of a Lower East Side drug dealer for the love of family. Offering a humorous take on the absurdity of the junky lifestyle, STRAIGHT OUTTA TOMPKINS also presents a fearlessly honest portrayal of the violence and danger that come with teen drug use. **Director Zephyr Benson**. 92minutes



9_{PM} Amv

(2015) AMAZING FIILM rom BAFTA Award-winning director Asif Kapadia (Senna), AMY tells the incredible story of six-time Grammy-winner Amy Winehouse - in her own words. Featuring extensive unseen archival footage and previously unheard tracks, this strikingly modern, moving and vital film shines a light on our culture and the world we live in today. **Director Asif Kapadia**. 128 minutes

Schedule subject to change

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT DOOR: \$10.00



FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA

Host, Ed Begley, Jr.

Special Guests to be announced

Previous Honorees: Christopher Kennedy Lawford Lou Gossett Jr. Buzz Aldrin • Duran Duran's John Taylor Carrie White • Joe Pantoliano

Call for Tickets (818) 762-0461

Our 2016 Honoree Mackenzie Phillips









1_{PM} Come Back Jeetu

(2015) Filmed in India, Director Jaswant Singh Mintu made this exotic film in dedication of those innocent girls, daughters, sisters, and mothers who are being "compelled to walk on the razor's edge and burning flames of drug addiction through no fault of their own. **Director Jaswant Singh Mintu**. 147 minutess



4_{PM} Deal With It

(2015) Shamira Raphaëla lives a seemingly successful life as a documentary film director. But her reality is that her father and brother, who are both in and out of jail. Her dad Pempy, has used heroine and crack for more than thirty years, and has a long criminal record. Her brother Andy, is following in his fathers' footsteps. A extraordinarily raw and personal film about destructive family patterns and unconditional love. This film seems to prove addiction is not a disease. **Director Shamira Raphaela.** 58 minutes In **Dutch with English Subtitles**



4_{PM} Reset

(2015) Rylee, a mixed-race teen descends into drug addiction while struggling with her difficult childhood. After entering treatment at a rehab facility, working through issues of identity both physical and emotional, Rylee learns recovery is a life-long process that holds no guarantees. Exploring the effects of addiction on family, Maya, Rylee's South Asian mother, struggles to understand Rylee's disease while coping with her own family history of substance abuse. **Director Arun Vir.** 30 Minutes

IN PERSON: Director Arun Vir



6:30_{PM} Girl on the Edge

(2014) A powerful, true story about the journey of a troubled teenage girl who finds healing in the most unlikely of places, and who must choose to either invest in her own recovery or succumb to the trauma of her past. Starring Taylor Spreitler, Gil Bellows, Peter Coyote and Mackenzie Phillips. **Director Jay Silverman.** 105 Minutess

IN PERSON: Director Jay Silverman



9_{PM} Big Sur

INTRODUCED by Critically Acclaimed Author and Poet, ALAN KAUFMAN

(2013) Sudden fame and a self-destructive lifestyle were taking a toll on Jack Kerouac following the unparalleled success of his groundbreaking novel, On The Road. Once a hero of the Beat Generation, Kerouac now sees only a vestige of his former self, ravaged by alcohol and drugs. Kerouac leaves New York for California, on a quest for redemption in Lawrence Ferlinghetti's isolated Big Sur cabin. What ensues in those fateful three weeks in August, 1960, is both terrifying and revelatory. **Director Michael Polish.** 81 Minutes

Schedule subject to change

www.REELRecoveryFilmFestival.org







1 PM The Other Side of Cannabis: Negative Effects of Marijuana On Our Youth

(2015) We warn our youth about alcohol and both prescription and illegal drugs, yet, our youth believe marijuana is safe and natural with no health risks. This documentary tells the stories of individuals of all ages, as well as interviews with top researchers across the United States who elaborate on the effects of marijuana facing our adolescents, teenagers and young adults, all with still-developing brains. **Director Jody Belsher.** 72 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Jody Belsher



3PM The Art of Recovery

(2015) Manny and Vic are two artists in recovery, together they prepare for and art exhibit entitled Lake Worth It in their home town of Lake Worth, Florida. They reflect on the impact of art in their recovery while detailing the ups and downs of addiction and finding a way out. **Director Richard Jackson with Manny Mendez and Vic James.** 98 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Manny Mendez and guests



5:30_{PM} Patient's Rites

(2014) Director, producer actor Issa Ibrahim spent 18 years at an asylum but this did not curtail his creativity. Ibrahim uses the arts as a healing and transformative tool for those who have suffered addiction as well as for their families and friends. Patient's Rites is an autobiographical musical documentary about the mental health community which conquers the familiar stereotypes and prejudicial stigma that comes along with it. **Director Issa Ibrahim.** 49 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Issa Ibrahim



Lapse

(2012) A broken man goes through a single day of his life, reliving the dark turns that brought him to his substance riddled present. A dark, jarring opening quickly descends into a long dark night of the soul for one man who must face his demons and if he can, return to the light. **Director Anthony Salderno.**30 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Anthony Salderno



7:30_{PM} AS I AM: The Life and 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. 97 minutes



9:30_{PM} Bob and the Monster

(2011) This documentary follows outspoken indie-rock hero Bob Forrest through his life-threatening struggle with addiction, to his transformation into one of the most influential and well known drug counselors in the country. Interviews with his peers, including Courtney Love, Anthony Kiedes and Flea add texture and depth, as does Bob's music throughout. **Director Keirdra Bahruth.** 90 minutes IN PERSON: Bob Forrest



TUESDAY

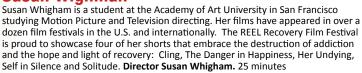


Higher Power

Music video. Director Mark Rosella. 4 minutes

Afternoon Shorts

Susan Wighman



IN PERSON: Director Susan Whigham

Grace

1 рм

(2015) Janice will face her high powered ex-husband in family court for the custody of their daughter. Staying clean is her priority but her unaccommodating boss stands in the way of Janice trying to do right. She has to face her demons of addiction and the possibility of losing custody of her daughter. Starring Marisa Vitali. Director Chris Ordal. 15 minutes

IN PERSON: Marisa Vitali



(2015) A female inmate receives her husband for a 3-day conjugal visit on prison grounds. She soon discovers that her husband unknowingly brought contraband into the prison. This leads to a fracture in their relationship, which they desperately try to repair before the end of their visit. Director Zach Marion. 15 minutes

Released

(2014) This first-time filmmaker's documentary short exposes dark familial secrets, a broken mental health system and the triumph of the human will over tragedy, trauma and self harm. Released casts an unflinching eye and lands a stinging blow against abusive authoritarians, stigma and insensitivity. Director Susan Spangenberg. 28 minutes

IN PERSON: Director Susan Spangenberg



The Struggle

(1931) This classic unwavering and non-judgmental view of addiction shows how employers, family members and society dealt with a man and his alcoholism before it was recognized as a disease. Director D.W. Griffith. 87 minutes





SPECIAL LIVE EVENT **5**РМ **Author Susan Cheever In Person**

Award winning writer and author of "My Name Is Bill: His Life and the Creation of Alcoholics Anonymous", Susan Cheever will be reading from her new, groundbreaking work, "Drinking In America: Our Secret History." Ms. Cheever will sit down with journalist and publisher, Maer Roshan, founder RadarOnline.com and thefix.com for a "spiritus contra spiritum" conversation. 75 minutes





Lambert & Stamp

(2014) Aspiring filmmakers Chris Stamp and Kit Lambert set out to find a subject for their underground movie, one that will reflect the way it feels to be young and dissatisfied in postwar London. The duo finally discover a band called the High Numbers with that perfect rebellious restlessness. Abandoning their plans to make a film, they instead decide to mentor and manage this group, later called, The Who. The result was rock 'n' roll history. **Director James D. Cooper.** 117 minutes

IN PERSON: Calixte Stamp and Dr. Tian Dayton



WEDNESDAY

1_{PM} Afternoon Shorts



(2014) Based on a true story, with contemporary music and realistic situations, the film explores the societal pressures on today's teens: grades, college, boredom, pill popping and relationships. Writer/Executive Producer Trish Glowacki. 27 minutes IN PERSON: Writer/Exec. Producer Trish Glowacki

Heroine

(2014) On December 17, 1914, The Harrison Anti-Narcotics Tax Act was passed. The language in it was unclear and quickly came to be interpreted as forbidding doctors to prescribe to addicted patients. This film follows a fictionalized account of what happened to doctors who continued to prescribe drugs to their at-risk patients.

Director Emily McMartin. 10 minutes

Time's Up

(2012) A film by Lance Juracka about two generations of a family dealing with alcohol addiction. The film was made when Lance was a film student at NYU. And 12 years later he died from alcohol addiction. Nancy Juracka, Lance's mother, wants to use to film to help other families that are struggling with this dreaded disease. Director Lance Juracka. 17 minutes

12 Promises

(2014) "How am I going to have friends who don't use drugs? How is that going to work?" 12 Promises is a powerful film in which teens talk the truth to other teens about how after they reclaimed their lives, they stay sober and develop friendships and start enjoying life. **Director Fritz Kiersch.** 26 minutes

3:30PM ABSTINENCE and/or/vs. HARM REDUCTION LIVE EVENT!

ALL STAR PANEL led by Howard Josepher from Exponents, NYC

http://www.exponents.org

Panelists include: Maia Szalavitz
Todd Whitmer

Todd Whitmer Cindy Feinberg Lureen McNeil Author & Journalist Caron Treatment Interventionist

OASAS (pending)



No Extra Admission.

5:30_{PM} **Evening Shorts**

Maybe Me

(2014) Bobby wakes up from a dream in Washington Square Park. He is haunted by the loss of his friends and heroes. *Maybe Me* is an experimental short film inspired by friends and heroes who have died tragically way too young. **Director Rabinovitz.** 13 minutes IN PERSON: Director Robert Rabinovitz

Veterans Affairs

(2013) Known best for his viral, controversial documentaries made while serving as a Marine during the U.S. invasion of Iraq. In *Veterans Affairs*, Kenneth Anderson pours his own experiences into this short that sees a veteran struggling when he returns to the States. **Director Kenneth Anderson.** 14 minutes

IN PERSON: Special invited guests

Conversation With a Cigarette

(2014) A cat-and-mouse game ensues between a man and his greatest enemy, an addiction that has a stranglehold on the man. Can he break free? **Director Russell Brown.** 18 minutes



















WEDNESDAY CONTINUED

5:30_{PM} **Evening Shorts - cont.**



Recovery

(2013) Recovery follows a retired boxer with a troubled past as he considers whether to train a young, ambitious Mixed Martial Arts fighter who comes armed with a message to the old boxer. Director Robert Waters. 8 minutes IN PERSON: Director Robert Waters



Methe

(2015) After what should have been an ordinary night out with his wife, a man struggles to keep his life on track despite his wife's denial of anything that is wrong with their lives. Director Ron Trejo. 16 minutes



Exit Road

(2014) Dane thought he left his personal demons and his drug addiction in the prison cell where he did his time. But his first day as a free man challenges not only his promise to go clean, but his very survival. Dane's neighborhood does not welcome him back with open arms and an uncertain future lurks on every corner. Director Yuri Alves. 13 minutes

IN PERSON: Yuri Alves



Sweet Dreams

(2013) IRELAND Based on the one-woman hit play, this true story portrays a day in the life of Paula Richards who works as a prostitute in order to feed her drug addiction. She battles between the love for her daughter and the harsh reality of her tragic circumstances. Starring Suzanne Lakes. Director: Rachel Sian O'Connor. 29 minutes TRIGGER WARNING - Graphic scenes of drug use.



8:00_{PM} Pat Dixon's Comedy Intervention Returns

Pat Dixon's Comedy Intervention, "One laugh at a time," benefits the Lenny Bruce Memorial Foundation. Pat Dixon hosts an evening of comedy and mirth. Come laugh your face off with some of the hottest men in New York's hysterical comedy scene.



The Lineup thus far includes:

- Christian Finnegan
- Chris Laker
- Dustin Chafin
- Gilbert Lawand

Live On Stage



Look them up on YouTube, and put Oct. 21, 8:00pm in your calendar. Don't miss it!

Tickets: \$15.00 at the door

Schedule subject to change

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THURSDAY



1 PM BREAKTHROUGH: Art, Analysis & the Liberation of the Creative Spirit

(2011) This documentary captures the intimate experiences of eight artists who, through creation and psychoanalytic treatment, face their pain. They had found themselves restrained in both life and work due to unresolved issues but through therapy and creative work they were liberated. **Director Judith A. Rubin.** 90 minutes



2:45_{PM} Trip the Movie (Guatemala)

(2011) Trip is an astounding award winning film that grew out of the blazing theatrical production of, "Delirium Tremens" by actor, playwright, director, screenwriter and film producer, Fran Lepe, An exhilarating portrait of addiction, denial and redemption that's also very funny. **Director Fran Lepe.** 80 minutes IN SPANISH. Subtitled



4:30_{PM} Without a Home

(2012) Growing up in Los Angeles, a city whose homeless population exceeds 90,000, filmmaker Rachel Fleischer always felt a deep connection to the homeless. Her desire to understand that connection takes the twenty-three year old Fleischer on an extraordinary four-year journey into the lives of six homeless individuals and families as they struggle to find homes, get clean, and survive. **Director Rachel Fleischer**. 74 Minutes



6:15_{PM} Under the Volcano

(1984) Based on the extaordinary, groundbreaking novel (1947) by Malcolm Lowry. Geoffrey Firmin is a British consul living in alcoholic disrepair and obscurity in a small southern Mexican town. The Consul's self-destructive behavior is a source of perplexity and sadness to his nomadic, idealistic halfbrother, Hugh, and his ex-wife, Yvonne. Starring Albert Finney and Jacqueline Bisset. **Director John Huston.**

112 minutes



8:30_{PM} Bill W. (Free Screening)

(2012) Bill W. tells the story of William G. Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous with Dr. Bob Smith. Bill W. was included in TIME Magazine's "100 Persons of the 20th Century." Interviews, recreations, and rare archival material reveal how Bill Wilson, a hopeless drunk near death from his alcoholism, found a way out of his own addiction and then forged a path for countless others to follow. **Directors Dan Carracino and Kevin Hanlon.** Starring Bill Wilson, Dr. Bob, Lois Wilson, Ebby Thatcher. 104 Minutes

Schedule subject to change

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