

Writers In Treatment Presents:

**Schedule**

**3rd Annual**

**Sept. 26 - Oct. 2**

**2014**  
**REEL RECOVERY**  
**FILM FESTIVAL**

**ALL FILMS \$5.00**

- FEATURES
- SHORTS
- DOCS
- FELLOWSHIP
- SPECIAL EVENTS

**Quad Cinema**

34 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011

[www.reelrecoveryfilmfestival.org](http://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 a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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 Kavinsky	



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

### REEL Recovery Film Festival - 2014

Director: Leonard Buschel

Art/Design/Web: Chris Lukather



## Upcoming REEL Recovery Film Festivals

Los Angeles	Oct. 24-30, 2014	Laemmle NoHo	North Hollywood, CA
Delray Beach	Nov. 7-9, 2014	Movies of Delray	Delray Beach, FL
Chicago	Nov. 14-16, 2014	Facets Multimedia	Chicago, IL
Vancouver, BC	Dec. 2014	TBD	Vancouver, BC
Denver	May 29-31, 2015	SIE Film Center	Denver, CO

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

SEPT.  
26

FRIDAY

### 1PM **The Struggle**

(1931) Before *THE LOST WEEKEND*. Before *ON THE BOWERY*. Before *DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES*, there was *THE STRUGGLE*. Pioneering filmmaker D.W. Griffith's final feature depicts, in glorious black & white, the gritty story of a real alcoholic. This unwavering and nonjudgmental view of addiction shows how employers, family members and society dealt with a man and his alcoholism before it was recognized as a disease. The entire audience will qualify for Al-anon after seeing this film. Starring Hal Skelly, Zita Johnson and Evelyn Baldwin. Director D.W. Griffith. 87 Minutes.



### 3PM **The Fix (Special Screening)**

(2013) Junior, a young father trying to turn his life around after years of heroin addiction, joins forces with a group of fellow hepatitis-C-infected former junkies in the Bronx to fight the disease. *The Fix* explores the concept of storytelling as an instrument of change and gives a powerful voice to typically silenced and marginalized members of society. Directed by Laura Naylor. 70 minutes.

**IN PERSON:** Director Laura Naylor and special guests



### 5PM **Maybe Me**

(2014) Bobby wakes up from a dream in Washington Square Park haunted by the loss of his friends and heroes, and encounters his own near death experience and subsequent challenges of survival. *Maybe Me* is an experimental short film inspired by those iconic artists and local addicts who have tragically died way too young. Directed by Robert Rabinovitz. 13 minutes.

**IN PERSON:** Robert Rabinovitz



### 6PM **Opening Reception**

**GRAPE VINE RESTAURANT AT THE JADE HOTEL**

52 West 13th Street (a few doors down from The Quad) NYC, NY 10011

Join us for strong coffee and delectable treats.



### 8PM **Grace (New York Premiere)**

(2014) Gracie knows hangovers. She's intimately acquainted with them. This time she woke up, half-dressed, on a Florida beach, 1100 miles from home. Suspicious and distrustful of everyone, including a café owner with a troubled history of her own, Gracie prefers the relief of alcohol - which had always worked for her. But when she's arrested for public drunkenness, Gracie is given a choice of jail or 90 meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous. Starring Annika Marks, Sharon Lawrence, Cindy Joy Goggins. Directed by Sylvia Caminer. 92 minutes.

**IN PERSON:** Director/Producer Sylvia Caminer,  
Writer/Star/Ex.Producer Cindy Joy Goggins



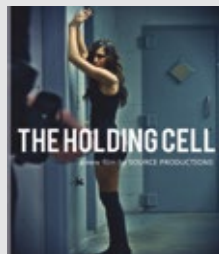
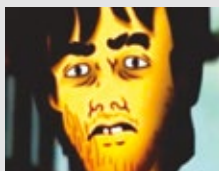
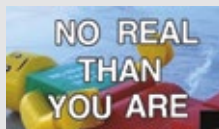
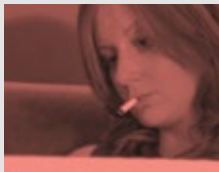
### 10PM **Stories Forlorn**

(2014) Hong Kong. Struggling to find answers to his brother's questionable suicide, a 16-year-old aspiring writer is lured into the underground world of Hong Kong. As the Chinese march their way over the border during the last summer under British rule in 1997, this coming of age drama and thriller tells a story about teens, drug addiction, naiveté and love. Starring Angie Palmer, Glen Chin, Jason Tobin, and Oliver Williams. Directed by Uri L. Schwarz & Jason A. Sankey. 85 minutes. "A fresh, eye-opening voice and perspective, rarely, if ever examined in HK cinema" —*HOLLYWOOD REPORTER*





SEPT.  
27



# SATURDAY

1:00 PM

## Saturday Shorts

### Easy Silence

(2014) Set in the backwoods of the American South, *Easy Silence* is the tale of Jade Sway, a young woman who suddenly finds herself a single mother after the father of her infant son is killed in action. As her addictions and demons threaten the future of both Jade and her baby, she must decide whether she can overcome the person she was in order to become the mother her child deserves. Starring, Ashley Reign, Michelle Bernard, James Haven. John Henry Whitaker and Max Randleman. Directed by Stephen Anthony Bailey. 28 minutes

IN PERSON: Ashley Reign

### Maybe Me

(2014) Bobby wakes up from a dream in Washington Square Park haunted by the loss of his friends and heroes, and encounters his own near death experience and subsequent challenges of survival. *Maybe Me* is an experimental short film inspired by those iconic artists and local addicts who have tragically died way too young. Directed by Robert Rabinovitz. 13 minutes.

### No Real Than You Are

(2014) A brilliant fictional short film unraveling the mystic connection among the legend of Sara De Soto, the legacy of William Whitaker, and the present day tragedies of the Oxycodone epidemic. We see the world through the eyes of 18-year-old Sasha Whitaker as she spirals into an opiate addiction with her lover. Starring Steve McAllister, Jaime Day and David Abolafia. Directed by Vincent Dale. 20 minutes.

### Return

(2014) IRAN. This inventive and compelling animated short tells the story of an athlete who lost everything to addiction and uses his love of boxing to turn his life around. "Many years ago when I was a kid my uncle took me to a local boxing club and that made me interested in boxing," said director Yahya Ghobadi. "Boxing is very attractive, it could release my energy instead of using drugs!" Directed by Yahya Ghobadi. 14 minutes

### Serenity Prayer

(2014) This short film depicts an alcoholic guided by the Serenity Prayer embarks on a journey from addiction to sobriety in an effort to save his relationship with his son. Directed by Alex Miranda. 4 minutes

### New Life

(2014) *New Life: Stories of Addiction and Recovery* is animated short in which six people share their journey from addiction to their new lives in recovery. Directed by Matthew Roth; Produced by Alex Miranda.

3:00 PM

## Saturday Afternoon

### The Holding Cell

((2014) The story of one teenage girl's free-fall into the harrowing world of prescription drug abuse and addiction. Based on true stories of teenagers in Sarasota, Florida, the movie begins as Skylar is dragged kicking and screaming into the county jail. She spends the night locked in a holding cell and relives her past and dangerous romance with a drug dealer and tries to untangle the web of her darkest days. Starring Christina Norcia, Tsadok Porter and Jack Polubinski, Jr. Directed by KT Curran. 34 minutes

IN PERSON: KT Curran

# Shorts on a Saturday Afternoon

*Saturday Continued*

## Saturday Afternoon - Continued

### The B Word

(2014) The B Word depicts two sisters on conflicting paths, both leading to a destructive cycle of fear, blame and uncertainty. The story is set around the disease of Bulimia Nervosa and it's debilitating factors that transform a sisterly bond into one of dysfunction and toxicity. This short takes on the growing epidemic in the African-American community that has yet to be addressed on a grand scale. Starring Lamon Archey, Desirae Whitfield, Shema Jones-Alamin and Shayla Hale. Writers: Nakisha Celistan, Nakisha Celistan, Directed by Jermaine Spencer. 19 minutes

### Sweet Dreams

(2013) IRELAND Based on the hit one-woman 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 which will either give her the incentive to turn her life around or destroy all chances of a relationship with her daughter. Starring: Suzanne Lakes; Directed by Rachel Sian O'Connor. 15 minutes  
TRIGGER WARNING-Graphic scenes of drug use.

## 5:00 PM Saturday Shorts

### Neal Hemphill Trilogy:

#### Top Of The World, Dressed, The Muse

(2014) NEED NEW TEXT HERE NEED NEW TEXT HERE and compelling animated short tells the story of an athlete who lost everything to addiction and uses energy instead of using drugs. Directed by . 00 minutes

### How to Touch a Hot Stove

(2014) This short film depicts an alcoholic guided by the Serenity Prayer embarks on a journey from addiction to sobriety in an effort to save his relationship with his son. Directed by Alex Miranda. 4 minutes

## 7:30PM The Wisdom to Know the Difference

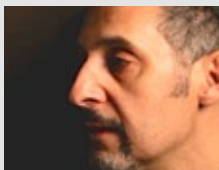
(2014) Best Picture Jury Award and Best Picture Audience Award at the San Antonio Film Festival, and Best Picture, Best Editing, Best Original Song and Best Supporting Actress at the Long Beach International Film Festival. WISDOM is a story about a man's journey to bring his sobriety full circle and help a young Latino girl lick a serious drug problem in an unorthodox manner. In this quest, Bob disregards the tremendous dangers he encounters and puts his own life at risk at the request of old friend. Starring Daniel Baldwin, Lou Diamond Phillips, Mayra Leal. Written, directed by Daniel Baldwin. 114 minutes.

**IN PERSON: Special Guests**

## 10PM Meth Head

(2013) In his 30's—stuck in a dead end job, engaged to a lover who is more successful than he, Kyle Peoples is also saddled with a family that doesn't get him at all. When an innocent night of partying leads to a new family of friends and debauchery, Kyle sees an opportunity to escape from his reality. But Kyle's new friendship with Maia and Dusty, and the trio's love of crystal meth eventually cost him everything. When he finally bottoms out, he must make the choice: life or meth. Starring Lukas Haas, Nekar Zadegan, Blake Berris. Directed by Jane Clark. 108 minutes

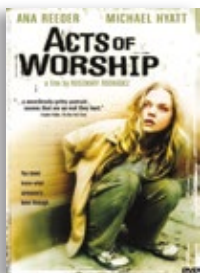
**TRIGGER WARNING: Graphic scenes of sex, and drug use**



Schedule subject to change

# SUNDAY

September 28



## **1:00PM Acts of Worship 10 Year Anniversary!**

(2003) This feels like more than a movie... it's as if there was some sort of peephole into the addict's world of real people living from one fix to the next in New York City. The acting in this movie is impeccable. Not since 1971's *Panic in Needle Park* has there been such an honest and nitty gritty portrayal of a young druggie in Lower Manhattan and her friendship with a photographer, who happens to be a former junkie as well. Well known stage actress Ana Reeder is a revelation. Directed by Rosemary Rodriguez, starring Ana Reeder, Michael Hyatt and Nestor Rodriguez. *94 minutes*

## **3:00PM Heart and Soul**

(2012) The film addresses the fact that individuals with mental health and substance use issues are dying, on average, 25 years younger than the general population.

The film is narrated by Ted "The Golden Voice" Williams, whose recovery story was featured on Dr. Phil and Today after his viral YouTube video showing him homeless on the streets of Columbus, OH reached more than 20 million viewers. Ted also shares his story in *Heart and Soul*. *20 minutes*

**IN PERSON: Director Sean Campbell & friends**



## **4:00PM Artistic Freedom in Recovery**

"Artistic Freedom in Recovery", Donna Chavous of A&E's TV show *INTERVENTION* hosts a panel of New York artists to discuss the creative process of recovery from alcohol and drug addiction and to dispel the myth that creativity flows better while under the influence of addictive substances.

- Graphic artist, Melinda Bush
- Dancer Robert La Fosse
- Actor/Director David Drake
- Poet-Artist Christina Rodriguez

Join this REEL Recovery Film Festival event to hear their own experiences, healing imagination while pursuing artistic journeys in recovery.

*90 minutes* tickets \$15.00



## **7:00PM Behind the Orange Curtain**

(2012) Delves into the staggering epidemic of teenage Rx drug abuse deaths in one of the most affluent counties in America. Who is to blame? Doctors? Pharmaceutical Company's? Parents? Or Our Society? Young, privileged teenagers are dying of overdoses at record numbers in Orange County, California. This fearless documentary asks the hard questions and helps educate parents and kids. Directed by Brent Huff. Starring Aisha Armer, Jodi Barber, and Geoff Blaylock. *60 minutes*

**IN PERSON: Co-producer, Jamison Monroe Jr. director of Newport Academy for adolescents.**



## **9:00PM The Man with a Golden Arm**

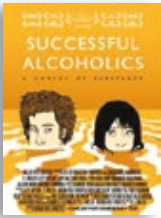
(1955) Strung-out junkie deals with daily demoralizing drug addiction while crippled wife and card sharks continue to pull him down. Sinatra is superb, especially in a harrowing withdrawal scene. It's his movie...all the way. Starring Frank Sinatra, Kim Novak and Arnold Stang, Directed by Otto Preminger. *119 minutes*



## 1:00PM **It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia: Charlie Rules the World**

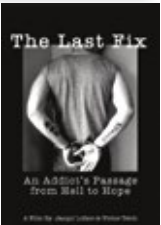
(2012) The gang starts playing an online video game and Charlie becomes obsessed with becoming the best player in the game. Meanwhile, Dennis is upset everyone else is playing the game all the time and not out enjoying the real world. Directed by Matt Shakman. *24 minutes*

**Special Invited Guest**



## **Successful Alcoholics**

(2012) It's a great poignant little film to show to budding alcoholics. Things like the DTs, memory issues and prolific vomiting aren't especially laughable. However the pleasing attitude, and delightful performances perfectly mask the subtle yet powerful message. Starring T.J. Miller, Lizzy Caplan, Nick Kroll, Maribeth Monroe. Jordan Vogt-Roberts just enjoyed great success with this year's summer hit, *The Kings of Summer*. Directed by Jordan Vogt-Roberts. *26 minutes*



## 3:00PM **The Last Fix**

(2010) The audience will be transfixed and touched by the stories of several recovering drug addicts and one young man addicted to alcohol as they moved through the supportive steps of the Drug Court program of the East End, initiated by Southampton Town Justice Deborah Kooperstein. Director Jacqui Lofaro and Victor Telch. *69 minutes*

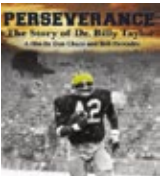
**IN PERSON: Jacqui Lofaro & Debra Kooperstein**



## 4:45PM **Bridges**

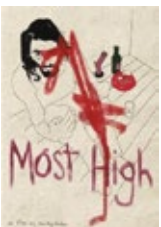
(2012) *Bridges* (2013) The journey of life can be strewn with rocks, even boulders, few more difficult to traverse than the walk of addiction. Filmmaker Iman Dammeh Nur has gained the trust of the men of the night, whose dark travels have seen the depths of hell. Yet in recovery they now share from their hearts and souls, the horrors of their sinking and the joy of their rising. This documentary is not to be missed, for to do so is to discount their lives. Directed by Iman Dammeh Nur. *88 minutes*

**IN PERSON: Iman Dammeh Nur & Cast**



## 7:15PM **Perseverance: The Story of Dr. Billy Taylor**

(2012) is the inspiring tale of one of college football's great running backs. Taylor was an early soldier in Bo's "10 Year War" with Woody Hayes and experienced greatness on college football's biggest stage. After graduating, a series of personal setbacks brought his world crashing down. A redemptive story for all ages, *PERSEVERANCE* tracks Taylor's rise, and his battles with substance abuse, incarceration and homelessness over the course of 25 years, in a dogged fight to recover his health, regain his faith, and restore his family. Directed by Dan Chase *52 minutes* **IN PERSON: Dr. Billy Taylor**



## 9:00PM **Most High**

(2004) Is a painfully intimate examination of a young man in crisis. Nonjudgmental and brutally honest, *Most High* is about the very nature of addiction. It paints an eerily accurate picture of how a Normal Joe can quickly end up in the darkest pits of despair. Phenomenal DiNiro like performance and transformation by actor/director Marty Sader. With stunning and sexually potent Laura Keys. *95 minutes*



# TUESDAY

September 30

## 1:00PM Trip the Movie

(2011) 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. The country of Guatemala has shown this film to over 55,000 students in it's program for prevention of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child abuse. An exhilarating portrait of addiction, denial and redemption. Funny too. Spanish with sub-titles. Directed by Fran Lepe. 80 minutes



## 3:00PM Owning Mahowny 10th Anniversary Screening

(2003) Casts an unflinching gaze into a window of addiction of a sort not often portrayed honestly in films. Absolutely worth seeing for Hoffman's performance alone, but there's also enough Casino / Heist excitement to keep you entertained. Based on the story of the largest one-man bank fraud in Canadian history. Starring: Philip Seymour Hoffman, Minnie Driver and John Hurt. Directed By: Richard Kwietniowski. 105 minutes



## 5:15PM Invisible War (special edition)

(2012) Is an engrossing, deeply moving, and disturbing documentary that will leave no viewer untouched. The Invisible War, directed by Kirby Dick, shines a light on one of America's most shocking occurrences—the epidemic of rape and sexual assault in the armed services. And when some victims—men and women—have come forward to report the crimes, the victims often face a second assault: commanding officers who either don't believe them or who refuse to do anything about the crime. Directed by Kirby Dick. Starring Amy Ziering, Kirby Dick and Kori Cioca. 60 minutes

Schedule subject to change

## 7:30PM Chasing the Muse... Stone Cold Sober

A Candid conversation about creativity and recovery

• Presented by WRITERS IN TREATMENT,  
WGA East and Hazelden Foundation.

Hazelden



Williams Cope Moyers  
(Moderator)

### Brown Paper Tickets

\$25 Advanced tickets

\$35 at the door



Lawrence  
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David  
Carr



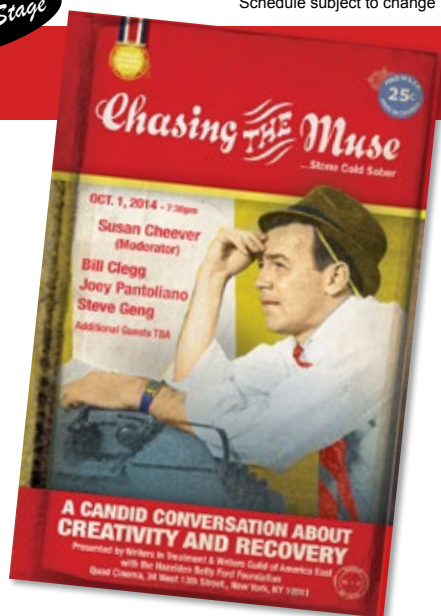
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Sacha Z.  
Scoblic



Michael  
Winship





# WEDNESDAY

October 1



## 1:00PM Invisible Young

(2012) Tells the life stories of four young adults who were homeless as teenagers. It looks at their families, their day to-day lives, their possible fates, and follows them as they strive for a hopeful, prosperous future. Set in Seattle, WA, this extremely well made and beautiful documentary shines truth on the intersection of homelessness and drug addiction. Directed by Steve Keller. 74 minutes

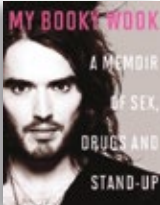
## 3:00PM Tian Dayton in Person with Dr. Gabor Maté live via Skype



- **How Does Addiction Change the Brain** (2010) According to Dr. Gabor Maté, it's a difficult struggle for hard core drug addicts to kick their habit because their brains are impaired. In a new book, he looks at the common roots of addictive behaviours and what can be done about them. It's called "In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction" 25 minutes

- **Action Therapy on Addiction** (2011) Psychologist Dr. Tian Dayton's discusses action therapy on addiction. 20 minutes

Q & A with Dr. Gabor Maté & Tian Dayton



## 5:30PM Russel Brand: My life without drugs

(2013) Russell Brand has not used drugs for 10 years.. But temptation is never far away. He wants to help other addicts, but first he wants us to feel compassion for those affected. With a sad commentary about his friend, Amy Winehouse. Written and starring Russell Brand. 58 minutes



Hosted by Pat Dixon

## 8:00PM Pat Dixon's Comedy Intervention \*Sponsored by Gosnold on Cape Cod

Pat Dixon's Comedy Intervention, "one laugh at a time," benefits the Lenny Bruce Memorial Foundation and Writers In Treatment. Pat Dixon hosts an evening of comedy and mirth. Come laugh your face off with some of the funniest men and women in New York's sensational comedy scene.

*Don't miss*

**Brown Paper Tickets**

\$15 Advanced tickets

\$25 at the door



Bonnie  
McFarland

Rich  
Vos

Ross  
Bennett

Dustin  
Chaffin

Leah  
Bonnema

Chrissy  
Mayr

Schedule subject to change

# THURSDAY

October 2

## California Trilogy



### 1:00PM It Takes All Types

(2013) A generous and gentle film made in West Hollywood, California. Stories that explains and illustrates the joys and pitfalls of sobriety. A powerful independent film using the faces and voices of local recovering men and women. Special appearance by **Leslie Jordan**. Directed and starring, Chuck Coleman. 77 minutes



### 3:00PM Drunk in Public

(2013) In 1994, custody officer/writer-filmmaker David J. Sperling began to document the life of Mark David Allen, a 33 year old alcoholic in an attempt to help Mark get sober. Over the next 18 years, Sperling put together a cinematic diary of Mark's dark, yet remarkable journey. Final and updated version of the 17 year chronicle of the magical, extraordinary and tragic life of dedicated alcoholic Mark David Allen. Directed by David J. Sperling. 80 minutes

## California Dreaming...



### 5:00PM May I Be Frank

(2011) It is the life of Frank Ferrante himself. Frank is a 54-year-old man who has abused food, alcohol, drugs— including heroin, but in return they have abused him even more. Frank has spent a life giving in to every temptation until he weighs 290 pounds plus, has Hepatitis C, is nearly diabetic, and has alienated his family. Addicted to drugs and morbidly obese, Frank Ferrante hands his life over to the owners of a raw, vegan café, who commit to helping him change his ways over the course of 42 days, and give him a second chance at finding future fulfillment and happiness. 90 minutes

**IN PERSON: Frank Ferrante**

### 7:00PM Closing Night Party

To Be Announced

Schedule subject to change

**Experience  
Strength and  
Hope Award**

**SPRING 2015**

**Skirball Cultural Center  
Los Angeles, CA**

**Previous Honorees:**

Christopher Kennedy Lawford  
Lou Gossett Jr. • Buzz Aldrin

Duran Duran's John Taylor • Carrie White



# 3rd Annual REEL Recovery Film Festival NEW YORK 2014 Edition

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# Chasing *THE* Muse

...Stone Cold Sober

OCT. 1, 2014 - 7:30pm

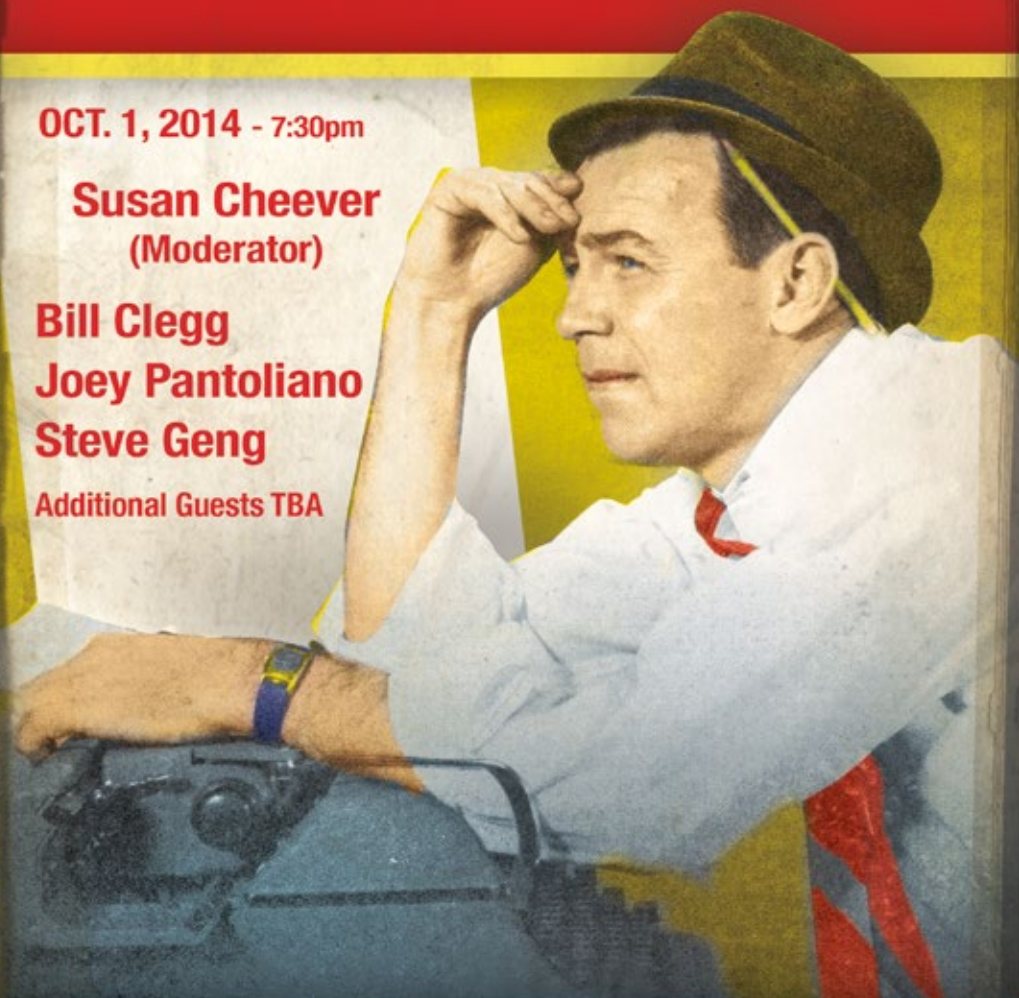
**Susan Cheever**  
(Moderator)

**Bill Clegg**

**Joey Pantoliano**

**Steve Geng**

Additional Guests TBA



**A CANDID CONVERSATION ABOUT  
CREATIVITY AND RECOVERY**

Presented by Writers In Treatment & Writers Guild of America East  
with the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation  
Quad Cinema, 34 West 13th Street., New York, NY 10011

