

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

7TH Annual REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL 2019 NOVEMBER 1-7



- ★ FEATURES
- ★ SHORTS
- ★ DOCS
- ★ FELLOWSHIP
- ★ ALL SCREENINGS \$10

Village East Cinema

181-189 2nd Ave., New York, NY 10003

www.reelrecoveryfilmfestival.org

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® every February in Los Angeles.

Writers In Treatment produces and presents culturally significant events dedicated to improving the quality of recovery by creating awareness and reducing the stigma associated with alcoholism, addiction and mental illness. We believe it's important for people in recovery, those on the cusp and the people who love them to have entertaining, informative and uplifting 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, mental health issues and sobriety. 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
Ahbra Schiff, Co-Producer
Chris Lukather, Graphic Designer
Elizabeth Narayan, Staff

P.O. Box 1745, Studio City, CA 91614
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Special 2020 Honoree
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Host: Ed Begley, Jr.

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 1

OPENING NIGHT EVENT



6:00 PM **Opening Night Reception**
For sponsors, filmmakers, invited guests
Generously sponsored by
Pinelands Recovery



Pizzeria Numero 28
176 2nd Ave.
(directly across from theatre)



8:00 PM **The First Day** (\$10 for film only)
(2019) Former professional basketball player **Chris Herren** take a deeper look into the struggles facing our children today. Director Jonathan Hock. 47 minutes. **ESPN**
IN PERSON: Jonathan Hock and Chris Herren

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 2



1:00 PM **Liquid Handcuffs:**
A Documentary to Free Methadone
(2019) Explores the intersection of methadone with race, class, social control and stigma. Directed by Marilena Marchetti and Helen Redmond. 67 minutes
Panel organized by Filter Magazine, with editor-in-chief, Will Godfrey, Helen Redmond, Marilena Marchetti and a current methadone patient.



3:00 PM **Live or Failure**
(2018) A young journalist is forced to leave her job producing TV news in Washington, D.C. when her liver starts to fail. Directed by Andrea Gonzales-Paul. 51 minutes
IN PERSON: Andrea Gonzales-Paul



4:15 PM **For Us**
(2019) Scott desperately tries to save his wife, Angela from an addiction that threatens to destroy their marriage. Directed by Mona Bennett Johnson. 22 minutes



Family Day
(2018) After three months in her third stint in rehab her sobriety is tested by a visit from her distant mother and loving stepfather. Director Harry O'Reilly. 17 minutes.

Schedule subject to change

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- Rumi



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SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 2



4:15 PM CONT. **Out of Mind – NY Premiere**

(2019) A young Armenian man deals with anxiety/depression AND the stigma of mental illness in his family & community. Directed by Tigran Nersisian. 12 minutes



Matchstick Willie

(2018) An alcoholic rodeo clown goes to his estranged wife's funeral in hopes of reconnecting with the daughter he hasn't seen in over 20 years. Director D.R. Garrett. 14 minutes



Courage

(2019) This ambitious Neo-Noir Western made by Southern California film students explores generational dysfunction, free will and character. Directed by Eric Wann. Producer Elizabeth Narayan. 16 minutes



5:30 PM **Hope Served Fresh – Recovery Friendly Employment**

(2019) A pizzeria owner in Oneonta New York decides to create a "sober and recovery friendly" workplace. Director Jessica Vecchione. 15 minutes



Roll with Me

(2017) After hitting rock-bottom, a paraplegic (Gabriel Cordell) goes on a 3,100 mile wheelchair trek across America, from Los Angeles to West Hempstead, NY. Directed by Lisa France. 90 minutes



8:00 PM **Cracked Up**

(2018) **Darrell Hammond's** story of trauma, addiction, self injury and mis-diagnosis while maintaining a brilliant comedic career on **Saturday Night Live**. Directed by Michelle Esrick. 95 minutes

IN PERSON: Michelle Esrick

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 3

ALL DAY SALUTE TO NYC FILMMAKERS - \$10



1:00 PM **Crystal City**

(2019) Meth has reached "epidemic levels within the gay community." The reasons for that, and the ways some addicts are pursuing sobriety, provide the subject matter of this powerful film. Director Terrence Crawford. 89 minutes

TRIGGER WARNING: DRUG USE, DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, SEX

IN PERSON: Terrence Crawford



3:00 PM **Milk Tea**

(2019) A drama set in Taiwan about an 11-year-old girl, HSUAN, who is suffocated by her dysfunctional family. Director Chien-Ni Yang. 13 minutes.

Taiwan, Subtitled

IN PERSON: Chien-Ni Yang



Max Fish

(2019) An introverted lyricist gathers inspiration to finish a song that may be the key to resolving past trauma. Director Hash Sesay. 14 minutes

IN PERSON: Hash Sesay

Schedule subject to change

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REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL
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ALL DAY SALUTE TO NYC FILMMAKERS - \$10

**3:00 PM CONT. I Woke Up in the Mud and Picked Up a Camera Because of Jonas**

(2019) Be it a friend in recovery who drinks again or a filmmaker who leaves a legacy, their ghostly memory lingers on in this experimental film. Director Devon Narine-Singh. 15 minutes

IN PERSON: Devon Narine-Singh

**How Do You Type A Broken Heart**

(2018) Woken by a midnight phone call, new mother Becky, reaches into the depths her soul to help a friend. Writer Susannah Nolan, director Jeremiah Kipp. 13 minutes

IN PERSON: Susannah Nolan

**Horace**

(2018) An alcoholic father is visited by his son, who wants to make amends for past harms done. Director Neal Hemphill. 7 minutes

IN PERSON: Neal Hemphill

**Reservations – NY Premiere**

(2018) Mary confronts her mother about her drinking by driving her to an AA meeting instead of their regular restaurant. Writer/Producer Jeanine Flynn, director Neal Hemphill. 10 minutes

IN PERSON: Jeanine Flynn and Neal Hemphill

**In My House**

(2019) A young boy's brother tries to shield him from his mother's worsening addiction. Director Zackary Centrella. 4 minutes

IN PERSON: Zackary Centrella

**5:00 PM The No Matter What Club**

(2019) Friends, Susan and Maria, find a way to eat, NOT drink and be merry, on Susan's 28th sober anniversary. Directed by Susan Campanaro. 24 minutes

IN PERSON: Susan Campanaro and Maria Gentile

**SLAW – NY Premiere**

(2019) Examines the notion of casual sex and the needs and desires that the players of this game bring along as baggage. Directed by Leelee Stranger and Jake Sofaer. 24 minutes

SEX AND NUDITY

IN PERSON: director and star Leelee Stranger

**6:30 PM Pop Music Voodoo**

(2016) A musical exorcist is sent by God to release the world from the evil influence of addiction, fascism, racism and the 1% through the power of song, and the magic of film. Director Issa Ibrahim. 59 minutes

IN PERSON: Issa Ibrahim and Susan Spangenberg

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 3



8:00

Quiet Storm: The Ron Artest Story

(2018) Explores the up and down career of pro-basketball player, Artest, and the man and mental health advocate, Metta World Peace is today. Film includes rare footage of the brawl between Pacers & Pistons, 2004. Director Johnny Sweet. 116 minutes

IN PERSON: Johnny Sweet

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 4



1:00 PM

One

(2019) "Absolutely one of the best films I've seen about alcoholism, pure genius" – actress, Suzanne Payne. Director Luke Bradford. 3 minutes. **UK**



Curtains

(2019) A young woman suffering from chronic trauma and abuse enters a dissociative state. Director Katie Waldron. 5 minutes



That's Life

(2018) A woman deals with life, depression and her inner demon. Director Carson Griffin. 4 minutes

IN PERSON: star Teri Griffin and Carson Griffin



No More Mommies and Daddies

(2019) A young girl haunted by the guilt and shame that she couldn't save her family turns to self-harm. Director Tamara Farsadi, starring Julia Garcia. 9 minutes

TRIGGER WARNING: INSTANCES OF SELF HARM



Watermark

(2019) When Meg moves in with her longtime boyfriend, she is suddenly terrorized by memories of a past trauma. Director Rebecca Maddalo. 24 minutes

TRIGGER WARNING: VIOLENCE AND SUGGESTED RAPE



How I Got Sober

(2019) A moving documentary about two alcoholics, Warren and Katie that follows their lives from addiction to sobriety, by using the 12-Steps. Directed by Maddie Kitchen. 16 minutes. **UK**



RAW

(2019) "RAW" chronicles the journey of a young woman's struggle to reverse her descent into addiction and crime. Director Laurel Adler. 27 minutes



Ruined Wings

(2018) Seventeen-year-old Callie Novak sets a high school ski record when tragedy strikes and she succumbs to addiction. Director Sabrina Stewart. 44 minutes

Followed by Recovery Coach and Addiction Specialist Gloria JR Harrison

Schedule subject to change



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THE WATERVIEW, MONROE, CT

6:00PM - 10:00PM

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MONDAY

NOVEMBER 4



4:00 PM **Unmasking – NY Premiere**

(2019) In a world where everyone wears masks to hide their true selves, a woman decides whether to reveal herself to her boyfriend. Director Rob Comeau. 12 minutes. Canada **IN PERSON: Rob Comeau**



Girl On The Edge

(2015) A powerful true story! A troubled teenager falls victim to an online predator. Unable to cope she becomes self destructive, and her parents make the decision to send her to a wilderness camp. Starring Mackenzie Phillips, Peter Coyote and introducing Taylor Spreitler. Director Jay Silverman. 100 minutes



6:30 PM **Screenagers Next Chapter: Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience**

(2018) Explores the impact of social media and screen time on young people's mental and emotional well being. Director Delaney Ruston. 69 minutes

Discussion led by Leonard Buschel



8:30 PM **Surviving Lunch**

(2019) "Brilliantly written, filmed and acted, it captures the torture of abuse and the power we have by modeling compassionate behavior and speaking up with heart and support." – Leonard Buschel. Director KT Curran. 75 minutes

IN PERSON: KT Curran

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 5



1:00 PM **Opioid Scare**

(2019) A family affected by the opioid crisis struggles to stay together. Director Steve Cadigan. 6 minutes



How Addiction Happens

(2017) Alex died of an accidental heroin/fentanyl overdose on his 22nd birthday. His family produced this video to help teens and their families avoid the painful path of addiction. Directed by Alex's Family. 7 minutes



Addict Named Hal

(2019) An unflinching, personal look at a young heroin addict's journey through addiction, incarceration, and getting clean. Directed by Lane Michael Stanley. 7 minutes



Smack Edd

(2018) Heroin addict Edd unexpectedly turns up to his son Patrick's eighth birthday celebration. Director Greg Hall. 7 minutes. **UK**



Don't Worry Don't Watch

(2019) A graduate helps her drug-addicted brother overcome his addiction and reconnect with his family. Director Benjamin McGregor. 9 minutes

Schedule subject to change



The Hope Dealer

(2018) A heroin addict must choose between his family and his addiction. Director Drew Broadhurst. 14 minutes



Painkiller: Inside The Opioid Crisis

(2018) Painkiller delves into the opioid epidemic; featuring interviews with families who have lost loved ones, as well as healthcare workers and policy experts. Director Matt Embry. 43 minutes. **Canada**



3:00 PM RE-REHAB

(2018) A man, desperate to find his wife, searches for answers through the technology that may have caused her disappearance. Director Daeli Kim. 10 minutes



Sentencing Reform: Drug Addiction

(2018) Shelly and Keith—two hardworking individuals strive to keep their sobriety after years in and out of prison. Director Robert Greenwald. 17 minutes. Distributed by Brave New Films



Burned Out Nurse

(2016) A perfect mother wife and registered nurse becomes addicted to opiates. Director Valerie Alleyne-Udeozor. 24 minutes



Recondition

(2019) A blue-collar story about a young man's recovery after a near fatal overdose. Starring Paul Guilfoyle. Writer Devon Coull, director Graham Patrick Martin. 21 minutes

IN PERSON: Paul Guilfoyle, Devon Coull, Graham Patrick



Fentanyl: A Street Battle In Town

(2019) An intensive look at the life of the most underprivileged people in 'Canada's poorest postal codes' called DTES (Vancouver Downtown-Eastside). Director Amir Payam. 41 minutes. **Canada**

IN PERSON: Amir Payam



5:30 PM City At Sea – NY Premiere

(2018) A small time drug dealer, struggling with addiction, strives to escape his industrial port town. Director Christian Robertson. 93 minutes. **Canada**



Opioid Spoon Project

(2019) A documentary about sculptor, Domenic Esposito's 800 lb. burnt spoon that he left outside Purdue Pharma's front door, hoping to bring awareness to Big Pharma's role in creating the opioid crisis. Director Joshua Berman. 10 minutes

IN PERSON: Domenic Esposito



8:00 PM American Relapse

(2018) Recovering addicts Frankie and Allie spend their lives helping other addicts but can they stay clean themselves? The film Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce prays you never see. Directors Pat McGee and Adam Linkenheit. 105 minutes

IN PERSON: Pat McGee and star Allie Severino



1:00 PM 8 Ways to Well Being for Recovering People

(2018) Instructions for people in recovery on how to improve their overall health and happiness through non-medical treatments. Director Scotty Avalos. 12 minutes



Medicine In The Mind

(2019) Asks the question, 'If meditation is powerful medicine, why aren't we using it to treat illness and disease?' Director Michael O. Snyder. 40 minutes. US, **India**



Six Gifts

(2018) The story of six individuals from all walks of life, their battles with addiction and failure, to their recovery and triumph. Director Nick Tribuno. 43 minutes



3:00 PM The Good Stuff – NY Premiere

(2017) A gambling addicted husband and his fed-up wife in the last day of their marriage. A very wild movie! Director S.C. Smith. 4 minutes



Staying Ahead

(2018) Allan is a degenerate gambler trying to stay away from his estranged wife and bookie. Director Lee Kolinsky. 15 minutes



Behind Bars – NY Premiere

(2019) Tobias, a lawyer by day and alcohol abuser by night, finds sobriety with a bartender battling his own painful addiction. Writer Kahla Franklin. 8 minutes



Lifeline – NY Premiere

(2019) Roy is a depressed war veteran; when he gets the news that he has contracted HIV he reaches out to his old girlfriend who works at a crisis response center. Director Jayson Johnson. 11 minutes



Voices

(2019) Voices is a story about the choice we make, to listen to our addiction or our higher self. Director Matthew Smith. 13 minutes. **Australia**



Lover Gone - NY Premiere

(2018) A married couple leaves a party under the influence and ends up in the hospital after a head on car crash. Director James Bottom. 20 minutes



5:00 PM Safety

(2019) Nap time turns deadly as a gym teacher must deal with an armed gunman. Oscar-winning director Fabrice Joubert. 14 minutes



Skid Row Marathon

(2017) **Award-winning documentary.** A criminal court judge starts a running club on L.A.'s notorious skid row comprised of homeless drug addicts, a recovering single mom and a paroled murderer. Director Mark Hayes, producer Gabriele Hayes. 85 minutes

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 6



LIVE PERFORMANCE - ONLY \$10

7:00 PM Moments...An Evening With Bill W.

Celebrate Recovery with a performance of the story of the co-founder of the 12 step group Alcoholics Anonymous! See "Moments...An Evening with Bill W" the true story of his alcoholism and subsequent recovery only as he can tell it! Step back in time to 1950 at the Kip's Bay Group 1st anniversary celebration with a guest speaker you won't soon forget! Hear the bedtime story live! Starring Andrew Matthews. By Bill McNiff.

DISCUSSION FOLLOWING

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 7



1:00 PM Mental Health Awareness in Relationships

(2019) Film cleverly uses movie references to explore modern dating. Director Johnny Tackitt. 9 minutes



In My Head – NY Premiere

(2018) When your head is full of insecurities, fear can rule reality. Director Dean Gild. 10 minutes. **Australia**



Is Your Story Making You Sick?

(2018) One cannot watch this film without pondering their own childhood, its impact on their life and the possibility of transformation. Award winning director Frances Causey, writer and star Mark Pirtle. 92 minutes



3:30 PM Hinge

(2019) A lesbian couple's idyllic life is challenged by their mentally unstable neighbor. Directed by Lisa Ann Mayo. 23 minutes



Valerie

(2019) Valerie, a 28-year-old office worker, experiences various transitions in her life while living with schizophrenia. Directed by Ronja Jansz. 8 minutes



Hurt

(2013) A quiet, misunderstood high school outcast considers an unspeakable crime. Directed by Brandon Chang. 16 minutes



Glimmers of Light

(2019) Carlo hasn't left home for 6 months because of panic attacks, but a phone call by his sister and a girl met while chatting will both trouble his daily routine. Director Lorenzo Borghini. 8 minutes. **Italy**, subtitled



Esteban

(2014) A depressed man doesn't know how to deal with his everyday life. Francois Albaranes. 8 minutes. **France**, subtitled

Schedule subject to change

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 7



3:30 PM CONT. Il Figlio – NY Premiere

(2018) A man disguises himself as his dead sister to spare his mother the truth. Director Alessia Sambrini. 14 minutes. **Italy**, subtitled



Manuel

(2019) The persistence of memory; this film is surreal, moving and like Dali, from Spain. Director Javier Robles Alvarez. 9 minutes. **Spain**, subtitled



5:00 PM The Sky Is Falling – NY Premiere

(2019) A young woman faces the reality of hypochondria and the toll it is taking on her life. Directors Scott D. Clark and Frank Souter. 10 minutes. **Australia**

The next five films written and starring kids in the Los Angeles County Foster Care System by Kids In The Spotlight



Staying True

(2018) A new kid bullied at school is saved from suicide which leads the students to a change in attitude. 8 minutes



Kurupted

(2018) A school shooting is seen from 5 different perspectives. 14 minutes



System Failure

(2018) What happens when a system set up to support a student, lets him down? 10 minutes



Saving Da'Lenzi

(2018) Drugs, sex trafficking, courage and hope. 8 minutes

Love Just Is

(2018) All we need is love and a little laughter. 6 minutes.



Pooch Sitter: A Film That Will Give You Paws

(2019) A quirky pet sitter seeks love and adoration from other people's dogs, and a place to stay. Director Monda Webb. 15 minutes



Break A Leg

(2018) A college student struggles with a leg injury and the strange way that people react to it. Director Carver Diserens. 12 minutes



7:00 PM SPECIAL LIVE MUSIC EVENT

Rock 'n' Roll hall of famer **Ricky Byrd**, former lead guitarist of Joan Jett and the Blackhearts and self proclaimed "Recovery Troubadour" uses his music and lyrics to inspire change and provide hope for those in early recovery.



8:00 PM Rocketman

SPECIAL INTRODUCTION BY RICKY BYRD

(2019) The epic musical fantasy about the incredible human story of Elton John's breakthrough years. Directed by Dexter Fletcher. 121 minutes

Schedule subject to change



A wish that every teen lives a drug-free life.

Brandi's Wish Foundation was founded in March 2011 out of a personal tragedy and sudden death of 18 year old Brandi Shea Meshad due to accidental prescription drug poisoning. Our mission is to raise awareness through education and offer preventative solutions to teens and their families regarding the dangers of prescription drug misuse and abuse. We believe that every teenager can achieve their wishes and dreams for a healthy and successful future by living a drug-free life. We believe the deaths that occur from the misuse and abuse of prescription medications are preventable. We believe we must change the way communities perceive addiction and the victims of the disease and proactively work to educate children, parents and community members to remove the stigma associated with addiction.

Our Goals Are:

To actively work in changing state legislation and pass laws to protect our children from the dangers of prescription drug misuse and abuse.

To work with schools and create programs to educate families and teens to the danger of abusing prescription medications.

To offer referral services and guidance to those families in need of rehabilitative and substance abuse recovery programs.

To help families in need of financial assistance if they have a teen in crisis and cannot afford the cost of rehabilitative programs.

At Brandi's Wish Foundation we strive to conquer and overcome the fear and helplessness caused from the disease and brain disorder of addiction and to empower teens and their families through awareness, education, support and compassion.

Thank you for embracing Brandi's Wish Foundation. Together we will save lives.

Lisa Brandy

President and loving mother of Brandi Shea Meshad

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