15th REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL®

OCT. 27-28-29, 2023

FEATURES
SHORTS
DOCS
SPECIAL EVENTS

Laemmle NoHo Theatre
5240 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601
www.reelrecoveryfilmfestival.org
Writers In Treatment (WIT) offers free referrals to local and national treatment providers for individuals suffering from alcoholism and/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, mental health issues and recovery. The festival and symposium offer direct interaction with filmmakers, addiction specialists, people in recovery, their loved ones 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/Director

Christopher Lee: Associate Producer

Chris Lukather: Graphic Designer

Grace S. Leung: Sponsor Liaison

Peggy Bruen: Sponsor Liaison

P.O. Box 1745, Studio City, CA 91614

818-762-0461

www.writersintreatment.org
**OPENING NIGHT EVENT - $25 AT THE DOOR**

**5:00 PM** Opening Night Filmmaker/Networking Party

Presented by The Addiction Recovery eBulletin
The Federal
5303 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601
(across the street from Laemmle NoHo Theatre, validated parking located at 11144 Weddington St. one block north of the theatre)

**7:00 PM** The Allnighter
(2022) An astrophysics student makes a bargain with a woman at a local pawn shop to recover his stolen research. Directed by Aimee Graham. (US) 75 minutes
IN PERSON: Aimee Graham, Owen Beckham, Sylva Kelegian, Gregory Gast, Nancy Harding, Ken Morris, Laura Chernicky, Naomi Grossman, Robert Peters

Maybe Just A Little Bit
(2023) A dangerous confrontation leaves Raquel on the brink of relapse, but a spark of hope from Dr. Hernandez might just keep her out of jail. Directed by Claire Chubbuck. (US) 11 minutes
IN PERSON: Alba Villalonga i Cases and guest

**9:00 PM** The Astrid Experience
(2022) An artist in recovery meets a free spirited actress who takes him on an all-night adventure through Los Angeles. Directed by Cal Barnes. (US) 88 minutes
IN PERSON: Cal Barnes

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**SATURDAY OCTOBER 28**

**Shorts Block 1**

**10:00 AM** Denise
(2022) A distraught father enters a red light district and gets hijacked by a woman named Denise. Directed by Eva-Marie Fredric. (US) 5 minutes
IN PERSON: Eva-Marie Fredric, Frank Simes

Torn Fabric
(2022) “Torn Fabric” follows Alex on their 22nd birthday and their journey through the emotional spectrum of alcoholism and rebirth. Directed by DEA & SAINT. (US) 7 minutes
IN PERSON: Myles Rodriguez

Schedule subject to change
Trauma & Addiction Treatment in Ocala, Florida

The Guest House Ocala provides unparalleled, premier-quality treatment to those who suffer from self-defeating behaviors brought on by trauma and its underlying issues. We are uniquely equipped to help our guests heal from trauma-induced substance abuse, process addiction, anxiety, or depression in a safe, comfortable, and confidential setting.

TheGuestHouseOcala.com
Shorts Block 1 - continued

10:00 AM  Another Drink
3 minutes

Dinner with Demons
(2023) Dinner with Demons follows the story of Elora, a young woman who struggles with her own addiction and the guilt she feels about her father’s addiction and its impact on her family. Directed by Liberty Joy. (US) 7 minutes

Down to the Bottom
(2023) An unflinching, 13-minute look at alcohol use disorder and its impact. Directed by Carina Miller. (US) 13 minutes
IN PERSON: Director Carina Miller

Jane
(2023) Jane is hitting her alcoholic bottom and attends an AA meeting where the voices of those that share at the women’s meeting echo her own story (based on a true story). Directed by Kyle Michaels. (US) 11 minutes

House of Lies Revisited
(2023) House of Lies Revisited depicts the impact of addiction. Directed by Elizabeth Licht. (US) 5 minutes

Clarity
(2023) The struggle of addiction. The healing in recovery. Directed by Bryce Mackie. (US) 7 minutes

Junkin’
(2022) Mike Heck seeks redemption after suffering most of his life with alcoholism, depression, and hoarding disorder. Directed by Andy Heck. (US) 17 minutes
IN PERSON: Director Andy Heck

David Again
(2023) An artist’s journey to recovery. Directed by Adam Elliot. (US) 18 minutes

Drainpipe Diamond
(2023) “Drainpipe Diamond” is an exploration of the harsh realities faced by a homeless girl living on the streets of Dublin, entangled in the depths of drug addiction and the unforgiving world of sex work. Directed by Joe Byrne. (Ireland) 4 minutes

Triggered
(2022) This collection of animations is based on a series of conversations with women about their PTSD. Directed by Jessica Mathis (aka Divinity Rose). (US) 21 minutes
IN PERSON: Divinity Rose and guest
Congratulations to all the Filmmakers in this year’s 15th Annual REEL Recovery Film Festival & Symposium on a Job Well Done! You are an inspiration to us all.
Feature Presentation

12:30 PM 12 Steps to Recovery
(2023) After the death of his brother and serving two years in prison, Joshua moves back in with his mom while under house arrest and is forced to address the addictions that brought him to this point through a 12 step program. Directed by Ryan Watson. (US) 92 minutes

Shorts Block 2

2:30 PM The Summers of Your Winter
(2022) Sara receives an opportunity to travel to the past and experience first-hand the moments that made her mother who she is now. Directed by Nei Loya. (Spain) 18 minutes

Querencia
(2023) A woman struggling with her mental health must reconnect with her inner child in order to heal. Directed by Samanta Lucille Dragone. (US) 10 minutes

I Think Therefore I Boom
(2023) A struggling young mother strives to bind her family together despite having an unstable husband, but everything changes when she realizes her four year old is missing and neglected by his absent-minded father. Director by Ben Weber. (Mexico) 17 minutes

Finding Hope in America
(2023) The nightmare of addiction, seen through the eyes of a group of men and women, and the power of the community that saves their lives. Directed by Dylan Johnston. (US) 56 minutes

Flannel Pajamas for the Soul
(2023) From radio star to a man underground, Bradley MacAvoy’s demons crescendo at the most inopportune time of his life. Directed by Brian MacDonald. (Canada) 26 minutes

Feature Presentation

5:00 PM Attention Must Be Paid: Women Lost in the Opioid Crisis
(2022) Attention Must Be Paid explores the stories of women who are battling opioid use disorder and are casualties of this neglect. Directed by David Vinik. (US) 88 minutes

Feature Presentation

7:00 PM Wherever You Are, There You Go
(2022) Baby, an addict in recovery, embarks on a cross country journey to make amends to those she’s wronged. Directed by Carol Brandt, Meredith Johnston, Dana Shihadah. (US) 89 minutes

IN PERSON: Carol Brandt, Meredith Johnston, Dana Shihadah, Harper Robison

Schedule subject to change
**Shorts Block 3**

**9:00 PM**  
**Supercalifragilistic**  
(2023) A cinepoem that explores the challenges of navigating the mental health system. Directed by Randy Kelly. (Canada) 5 minutes

**Bay St. Healer**  
(2022) “It’s stupid to pathologize life,” says Toronto psychiatrist Dr. Gordon Warme. Over the decades listening to patient problems, he is unsure that their issues are caused by their faulty brains. Directed by Jonathan Balazs. (Canada) 67 minutes

**The Glorbis**  
(2023) A young woman decides to check herself into a facility and immediately regrets it. Directed by Jonny Berkowitz. (US) 13 minutes  
**IN PERSON: Director Jonny Berkowitz**

**This Is Not A Pipe Dream**  
(2023) A suicidal woman is united with younger and older versions of herself. Directed by Tracy Snyder. (US) 18 minutes  
**IN PERSON: Diane Jones**

**Fun House**  
(2023) Tom and Nate begin to experience oddities and stumble upon a mystical entrance to a hidden and outer-worldly party. Directed by: James Turner. (US) 8 minutes  
**IN PERSON: Director James Turner**

**Long Dark Road**  
(2023) Becoming lost on a rural back road, a recovering addict seeks escape down an overgrown path. Reality soon distorts, and he must come to terms with himself to find his way back to the world. Directed by: Aaron Connor. (US) 8 minutes

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**Feature Presentation**

**10:00 AM**  
**Our American Family**  
(2021) “Our American Family” is a radically honest portrait of five family members grappling with the legacy of generational addiction. Directed by Hallee Adelman. (US) 88 minutes

Schedule subject to change
13TH ANNUAL EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH & HOPE AWARDS®

HONORING ED BEGLEY, JR.

FOR HIS BOOK, To The Temple of Tranquility...And Step on It!: A Memoir

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6, 2023

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049

Catered Networking Reception: 5:00-7:00 PM
Awards Show: 7:00-9:00 PM

TICKETS: $100
CALL (818) 762-0461

Dress Code: No Gowns, No Tuxes, No UGGs
Shorts Block 1

12:00 PM  Father Son Camping
(2023) My dad jettisons me during the Cub Scout’s father-son camping trip. A tragic tale told with perspective and humor. Directed by Jordan Brady. (US) 7 minutes
IN PERSON: Jordan Brady, Ben Brady, Jake Brady

Second Childhood
(2023) A middle aged alcoholic returns home to his mother’s house to dry out and to become the son, husband, and father he wants to be. Directed by Charles Bane. (US) 24 minutes
IN PERSON: Charles Bane, Paulette Bane

Just For Today
(2023) Billy, a long-time recovering alcoholic, undergoes a radical personal reckoning across the space of a single share at a twelve-step recovery meeting. Directed by Sean May. (US) 8 minutes

Unbearable
(2023) Arthur begins to suffer flashbacks to a history of domestic violence. Directed by Benjamin Van den Berghe. (Belgium) 14 minutes

The Sight of Angels
(2023) A man quickly going blind evaluates his life from this new perspective. Directed by Pasquale Esposito. (Italy) 16 minutes

Waving
(2022) “Waving” explores the anguish of a father in self-imposed exile to shield his family from his OCD. Directed by Rolfin Nyhus, Steven Brumwell. (UK) 16 minutes

Shorts Block 2

2:00 PM  Serenity
(2023) Li, struggling with the death of his sister Jessie, finds himself spiraling into drug abuse. Directed by Ryan Stopera. (US) 15 minutes

Soil
(2022) A young man tries to grow an oak tree by combining soil, an acorn, and the ashes of his dead father. Directed by Sam Lembeck. (US) 11 minutes

Sound Check
(2023) A comic processes the passing of his mother. Directed by Stephon O Pettway, Thomas D Slivinski. (US) 10 minutes

Waking Up A Widower
(2023) A man comes to terms with the sudden loss of his wife. Directed by David Grewe. (US) 6 minutes
IN PERSON: David Grewe and guest

Schedule subject to change
Shorts Block 2 - continued

**2:00 PM**  **We Are Those People**  
(2023) This documentary showcases the stories of former alcoholics and the circumstances that brought them to recovery. Directed by Erika Ball. (US) 45 minutes

**Mana Over Meth**  
(2022) Determined to break the cycle for her tamariki, one wāhine toa turns her troubled life of addiction and trauma around by rediscovering her wairua and reclaiming her mana. Directed by Holly Beckham. (New Zealand) 11 minutes  
**IN PERSON:** Holly Beckham, Mamaeroa Mana

**The Right Words**  
(2023) A man struggles to find the right words in the most important letter of his life. Directed by Ross Asdourian. (US) 6 minutes

Shorts Block 3

**4:30 PM**  **Hold On**  
(2023) Inspired by the poem, “Heartbreak Times Infinity,” the “Hold On” song empathically encourages us to “hold on” and not act on suicidal thoughts. Directed by Diane Kaufman. (US) 5 minutes

**Monster Inside**  
(2022). A music video set to “Echoes of the Lost” by Stuttgart that illustrates the weight of depression. Directed by Marcel Joey Majer Corona. (Germany) 5 minutes

**Rosie**  
(2022) The story of two friends navigating life and loss. Directed by Eva-Marie Fredric. (US) 19 minutes  
**IN PERSON:** Eva-Marie Fredric, Frank Simes

**Borderlines**  
(2021) Borderlines is an artistic statement that takes an unflinching look at the rage and depression that often comes along with a lifelong chronic illness. Directed by CourTney Collins. (US) 6 minutes

**Lanterns Flicker**  
(2023) A Canadian veteran who served in Afghanistan turns to music to help him in his battle with PTSD and to raise awareness of veteran suicide and mental health. Directed by Yoni Collins. (Canada) 15 minutes

**Stuck**  
(2023) A young army veteran with PTSD and his two friends end up stuck in a minefield in the Golan Heights and try anything to get out. Directed by Shoval Chiprut. (Israel) 27 minutes

Schedule subject to change
Shorts Block 3 - continued

4:30 PM  Walking in Place
(2023) Chris falls into an episode of depersonalization as friends and family attempt to pull him out of his trance. Directed by Clayton James Favor. (US) 13 minutes

Burnt Out
(2022) A young girl struggles with her feelings of burnout. Directed by Georgia Goodman. (US) 2 minutes

The Score Keeper
(2022) A young, chronically ill female sets out to document her healing journey. Directed by Alyssa Park. (US) 11 minutes
IN PERSON: Alyssa Park, Michaela Moore, Mackenzie Martin

Shorts Block 4

6:30 PM  Cotton Fever
(2022) James, a low level drug dealer and addict, struggles to raise money for a new family. Directed by Daniel Blake Schwartz. (US) 19 minutes
IN PERSON: Daniel Schwartz, Jenna Makenzie

No Matter What
(2023) Cassy Bustos and her family navigate through substance abuse, trauma, the criminal justice system, and re-entry from prison. Directed by Gayle Nosal, Beret E Strong. (US) 49 minutes

One Pill Can Kill
(2023) “One Pill Can Kill” is a warning about the increasing dangers of deadly fentanyl. Directed by Molly Hermann, Rob Lyall. (US) 35 minutes

Fent & Me
(2023) If a 17-year-old girl could talk about her fentanyl addiction and tragic death, this is what she would say. Directed by Mark Cavanagh, Therese Dunn. (US) 9 minutes

Schedule subject to change
HIGH
An X-Rated Marijuana Memoir
by Leonard Lee Buschel

Vastly entertaining and incredibly honest—a captivating memoir of addiction and recovery

HIGH is far more than a vastly entertaining recovery memoir. It is an open emotional summons, a sincere invitation to a life lived awake and alert, a life vibrating at a higher frequency of increased creativity and joy, and if you so desire, social inclusion, fun, fellowship, and plenty of free coffee.
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Shorts Block 4 - continued

6:30 PM  It’s Your Choice
(2023) When a young woman tries to tell her girlfriend that she loves her in front of her best friend, things don’t go as planned. Director Audrey Maxon. (US) 5 minutes

Loving Lenna
(2020) A poetic narrative following Lenna’s discovery to self-love. Directed by Kirstie Muñoz. (US) 8 minutes

Feature Presentation

8:45 PM  Swim Tuff
(2023) “Swim Tuff” captures Ben Tuff’s perseverance and joy in sobriety while looking to destigmatize addiction and help people learn to follow their dreams. Directed by Matt Corliss. (US) 48 minutes
IN PERSON: Ben Tuff

The Choice
(2023) A look at the choice to overcome video game addiction. Directed by Allee Chance. (US) 6 minutes

Screenagers Under the Influence
(2023) Delaney Ruston picks up her camera once more to examine the impact of our digital age on teens’ decision making in relation to vaping, alcohol, and drugs. Directed by Delaney Ruston, MD, Lisa Tabb. (US) 68 minutes

“One film at a time”
– Leonard Lee Buschel
2023 Los Angeles REEL Recovery Film Festival & Symposium®
Presented by Writers In Treatment & The Guest House, Ocala

Official Sponsor

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