

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

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

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

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 27

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

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**

(2023) A woman watches her life without alcohol. Directed by Sarah Jamgotch. 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



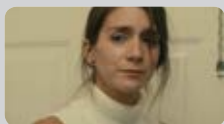
2:30 PM The Summers of Your Winter

(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

SATURDAY — OCTOBER 28

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 Warne. 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

SUNDAY — OCTOBER 29

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

WRITERS IN TREATMENT &



PRESENT

13TH ANNUAL
EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH & HOPE AWARDS®
HONORING
ED BEGLEY, JR.

Book Now
to Avoid
Disappointment

FOR HIS BOOK,

To The Temple of Tranquility...And Step on It!: A Memoir

Photo: Michael Schwartz



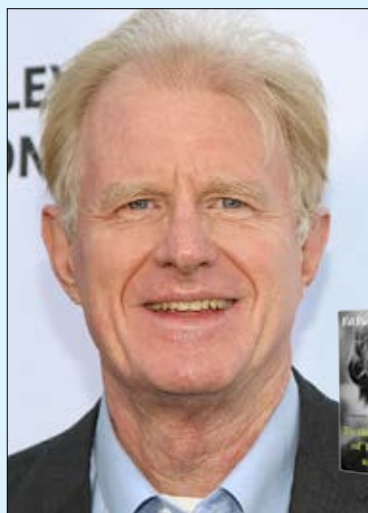
HOST:
COMEDIENNE
PAULA POUNDSTONE



SPOKEN WORD:
JAMES BLACK



WENDY LIEBMAN
HEADLINER
COMEDIENNE



PRESENTER:
DURAN DURAN's
JOHN TAYLOR



PRESENTER:
JOANNA CASSIDY



MUSICAL GUEST:
JULIAN VELARD

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**

PAST RECIPIENTS



2010 Chris Kennedy Lawford	2011 Lou Gossett, Jr.	2012 Buzz Aldrin	2013 John Taylor	2014 Carrie White	2015 Joe Pantoliano	2016 Mackenzie Phillips	2017 Pat O'Brien	2018 Jane Velez- Mitchell	2019 Jodie Sweetin	2021 Leigh Steinberg	2021 Courtney Friel	2022 Danny Trejo
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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 Bergh. (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

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

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

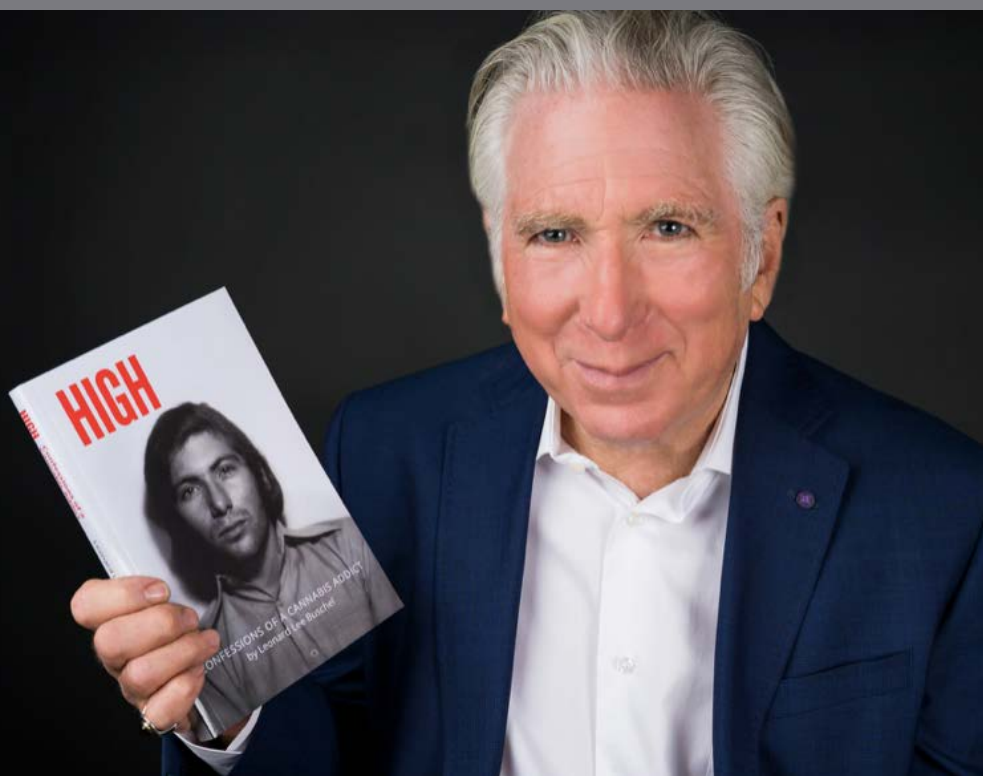
(2023) If a 17-year-old girl could talk about her fentanyl addiction and tragic death, this is what she would say. Directed by Mark Cavanagh, Therese Dunn. (US) 9 minutes



**Now available on Amazon!
or order at Barnes & Noble Booksellers**

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.



REEL Recovery Film Festival & Symposium® 2009-2023

YEAR	CITY	MONTH	DATES
2009	Los Angeles, CA	April	7,21,28
2009	Los Angeles, CA	May	5,12,19,26
2010	Los Angeles, CA	May	20
2010	Los Angeles, CA	October	28-30
2011	Vancouver, BC	October	21-23
2011	Los Angeles, CA	December	8,9,10,11
2012	Seattle, WA	May	31
2012	New York City	September	28-Oct. 4
2012	Los Angeles, CA	October	25-28
2012	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	November	2-4
2013	Los Angeles/Skid Row	April	4
2013	Los Angeles/Skid Row	May	3-5
2013	New York City	September	27-Oct. 3
2013	Los Angeles, CA	October	18-24
2013	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	November	8-10
2013	Vancouver, BC	November	23-24
2014	Sedona, AZ	February	22
2014	Houston, TX	April	4-6
2014	San Francisco, CA	April	24-27
2014	New York City	September	26-Oct. 2
2014	Denver, CO	October	10-12
2014	Del Rey Beach, FL	November	7-9
2015	Denver, CO	May	29-31
2015	San Francisco, CA	June	11-14
2015	Houston, TX	September	25-27
2015	New York City	October	16-22
2015	Los Angeles, CA	October	23-29
2015	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	November	4-6
2016	New York City	September	23-29
2016	Los Angeles, CA	October	21-27
2016	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	November	4-6
2017	London, UK - iCAADE	May	1
2017	Austin, TX - NAATP	May	23
2017	Richmond, VA	August	25-27
2017	Denver, CO	September	15-17
2017	Los Angeles, CA	October	20-26
2017	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	November	3-5
2018	Los Angeles, CA	October	24-30
2018	New York City	November	2-8
2019	Denver, CO	September	20-21
2019	Los Angeles, CA	October	11-17
2019	New York City	November	1-7
2020	Virtual, Worldwide	November	6-12
2021	Virtual, Worldwide	November	5-11
2022	Los Angeles, CA	October	21-27
2023	Los Angeles, CA	October	27-28-29

**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

**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®

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