

JANUARY 19-21, 2024



**4TH ANNUAL
NORWALK
FILM FESTIVAL**



NORWALKFILMFESTIVAL.ORG

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Dear 2024 Norwalk Film Festival-goers,

We are so excited to welcome you all to our 4th Annual Norwalk Film Festival. This year proves to showcase some of the best submissions we have ever received, and features well over 60 films that truly run the gamut of genres.

Once again, we are thrilled to be at the historic Wall Street Theater, along with additional screenings and our impressive panel lineup at the Norwalk Public Library, right up the street.

Our all-volunteer, all-Norwalker Leadership Committee has worked tirelessly for months to put together this showcase of talent for our community. We take pride in our commitment to contributing to the vibrant cultural and growing arts community we help represent.



A huge thank you for attending and supporting this cause, and we hope you have a great time experiencing all of the programming. If you have any questions or just want to chat, just look out for the lanyards. We're excited to meet you.

A final thanks to this year's sponsors and partners. We truly could not put on this event without you.

Have a great time at the 2024 Norwalk Film Festival!

Sincerely,

The Norwalk Film Festival Leadership Team
- Alex, Jennifer, Justin, Larry, Marge, and Sean

A very special thank you to Sive Fingaz for cover/poster design

UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY THROUGH FILM

OPENING NIGHT PARTY!

Friday Evening, January 19, 7 – 9 pm

**Join us for an opening night
celebration at**



314 Wilson Avenue, Norwalk

314 Beer Garden and Wood-Fired Pizza, the epitome of outdoor fun in Fairfield County. Voted the Best Outdoor Bar by the Best of Gold Coast voters in 2023, the space spans an impressive 10,000 square feet, offering a lively and inviting atmosphere for all.

An Outdoor Oasis

314 Beer Garden is a vibrant outdoor haven. There are spacious grounds featuring a large fire pit, yard games including cornhole, and an expansive stage for live bands that perform four days a week. There are organized, lively themed events regularly, complete with entertaining contests and exciting giveaways.

VENUES

Wall Street Theater

71 Wall Street

FILM SCREENINGS

Originally opened in 1914 as The Regent, the theatre, which is part of the Wall Street Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, underwent an extensive renovation re-opening in 2017 as a performance venue with a 690-seating capacity, and 1,000 standing room.



Norwalk Public Library

1 Belden Avenue
(One block from the theater)

FILM SCREENINGS/PANELS

The Norwalk Public Library System, founded in 1879, provides open access to diverse resources, and is the information and cultural center for



Norwalk citizens and businesses. The main branch is located at 1 Belden Avenue, just down at the end of Wall Street, one block from the Wall Street Theater, with ample parking behind the building

314 Beer Garden

314 Wilson Avenue

OPENING NIGHT HOST

Rustic outdoor beer garden. 22 Taps with mostly local beers and a large firepit. Family and dog friendly.



SCHEDULE: SCREENINGS & PANELS

TIME	SATURDAY, JANUARY 20	
	WALL STREET THEATER	NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 am - 11 am	STUDENT SHORTS	
11 am - 12 pm		STUDENT/PROFESSIONAL MIXER
12 pm - 1 pm	CONNECTICUT DOCUMENTARY SHORTS	PANEL: DEVELOPING YOUR DOC
1 pm - 2 pm		PANEL: CROWDFUNDING YOUR FILM
2 pm - 3 pm	DOCUMENTARY SHORTS	CONNECTICUT STUDENT FILMS
3 pm - 4 pm		
4 pm - 5 pm	NARRATIVE SHORTS	MUSIC VIDEOS & ANIMATIONS
5 pm - 6 pm		
6 pm - 7 pm	FILM FESTIVAL HAPPY HOUR	
7 pm - 10 pm	FEATURE FILM: THE FEATHERWEIGHT	



TIME	SUNDAY, JANUARY, 21	
	WALL STREET THEATER	NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY
1 pm - 2 pm		FAMILY SHORTS
2 pm - 3 pm	INTERNATIONAL BEST OF THE FEST	PANEL: FOOT IN THE DOOR
3 pm - 4 pm		PANEL: NEW TECH. IN CONTENT CREATION
4 pm - 5 pm	CONNECTICUT NARRATIVE SHORTS	
5 pm - 6 pm		
6 pm - 7 pm	CLOSING CEREMONY AUDIENCE AWARD	

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR FILM ORDER AND ANY UPDATES

www.NorwalkFilmFestival.org

FILM SCREENING TIMES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

FILM TITLE	DIRECTOR	FILM TITLE	DIRECTOR
10 am -12 STUDENT SHORTS	Location: Wall Street Theater	2-4 DOCUMENTARY SHORTS	Location: Wall Street Theater
<i>Invisible Ties</i>	Megan Du Plessis	<i>Accidental Artist</i>	Paulo Araujo
<i>Esmeralda</i>	Jennifer Greco	<i>Self Portrait of Lee Holin</i>	Elliot Atkinson, Brendan Hickey
<i>Exodus</i>	Emily Merola	<i>Appreciation-Tomiko Morimot West</i>	Michael Dwyer, Chuck Gomez
<i>PTO</i>	Taylor Becker	<i>The Perfect Shot: Antarctica</i>	Quinn Halleck
<i>Dance Robert Dance</i>	Dylan Hunter Cole	<i>Resurgence</i>	Krushan Naik
<i>Blue Hour</i>	J.D. Shields	<i>Unredeemable</i>	Todd Kapostasy
<i>Marcel The Muscle Man</i>	Michael Joseph Murray		
12-2 CT DOCUMENTARY SHORTS	Location: Wall Street Theater	ANIMATION	Location: Norwalk Public Library
<i>Tough For A Girl</i>	JD Freda	<i>Resurrection Under the Ocean</i>	Serkan Aktas
<i>Made in Bridgeport</i>	Augustina Aranda	<i>Rattle</i>	Jaina Cipriano
<i>The Ladder</i>	Christopher Orrico	<i>Ghost Song</i>	Crystal Manich
<i>How to Paint a Peace Sign</i>	Rick Gomez	<i>Money Talks</i>	Buster Comaskey
<i>Climate Emergency</i>	Robert Menefee	<i>Lucky Your Mine</i>	Steven Santoro
<i>Don't be Dainty...It's Derby</i>	Alix Speyer Bacher	<i>Mirror Mirror</i>	Johannes DeYoung, Natalie Westbrook
<i>Say Something</i>	Agustina	<i>Playboy Lover</i>	Wylie Soltes
<i>The Championship Rounds</i>	John Spinnato		
2-4 CT STUDENT SHORTS	Location: Norwalk Public Library	SATURDAY 4-6 NARRATIVE SHORTS	Location: Wall Street Theater
<i>The Farmington Land Trust</i>	CJ Calcinari	<i>Fractal</i>	Kiarra Goldberg
<i>Is That It?</i>	Simon Magnifico	<i>The Moms</i>	Katie Goodman
<i>The Audition</i>	Sadie-Grey Murphy	<i>Into the Thicket</i>	Devany Greenwood
<i>Wesley Part I</i>	Parker Toth	<i>Dead Enders</i>	Fidel Ruiz-Healy, Tyler Walker
<i>Haunting of Compo</i>	Caleb Martin Berger	<i>Nu Metal Will Never Die</i>	Colter Harris
<i>To Somewhere With Me</i>	Sarah Sewell	<i>Eyecatcher</i>	Jun Shimizu
<i>Breaking the Stigma</i>	Jack Muscatello	<i>Flutz</i>	Ryan Mccown
<i>Incoherence</i>	Emily Rodriguez	<i>A Mind Cannot Touch</i>	Geoffrey Prather
		<i>Flounder</i>	Sam Cutler-Kreutz, David Cutler-Kreutz
		FEATURE FILM 7-10	Location: Wall Street Theater
		<i>The Featherweight</i>	Robert Kolodny

SCREENING SCHEDULEE SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

FILM TITLE	DIRECTOR
1-2 FAMILY SHORTS	Location: Norwalk Public Library
<i>Eye Spy</i>	Sarah Daudoin
<i>You Are Not Small</i>	Sherene Strausberg
<i>The Firefly Jar</i>	Gary Fierro
2-4 INTERNATIONAL	Location: Wall Street Theater
<i>Hedgehog</i>	D. Mitry
<i>The Librarian</i>	Serkan Aktas
<i>For Child Never Born</i>	Afsaneh Aghanezhad, Vali Badheri
<i>REM</i>	Muhamnadreza Yarikia
<i>Correction Fluid</i>	Danial Abroushan
<i>You Think Although You are Not</i>	Salaheddin Noori
<i>Our Males and Females</i>	Ahmad Alyaseer
4-6 CONNECTICUT NARRATIVE SHORTS	Location: Wall Street Theater
<i>The Screams</i>	Eric Champey
<i>Kumquat</i>	Meeni Hardart
<i>Penny</i>	Caroline Duncan
<i>Not the Same Clarence</i>	Brian Russell, Brian B. Russell
<i>Inmate</i>	Enrique Lebron
<i>Be Nice to the Fish</i>	Samuel B. Russell
<i>The Locket</i>	Alex Asten
<i>The Hanover Incident</i>	Charles Alexander Berlepsch

FILM LISTINGS A-L

Film Title	Director	Category	Time
<i>A Mind Cannot Touch</i>	Geoffrey Prather	Narrative Shorts	Saturday, 4-6
<i>Accidental Artist</i>	Paulo Araujo	Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Appreciation-Tomiko Morimot West</i>	Michael Dwyer, Chuck Gomez	Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Be Nice to Fish</i>	Samuel B. Russell	CT Narrative Shorts	Sunday, 4-6
<i>Blue Hour</i>	J.D. Shields	Student Shorts	Saturday, 10-12
<i>Breaking the Stigma</i>	Jack Muscatello	CT Student Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Climate Emergency</i>	Robert Menefee	CT Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 12-2
<i>Correction Fluid</i>	Danial Abroushan	International Best of Fest	Sunday, 2-4
<i>Dance Robert Dance</i>	Dylan Hunter Cole	Student Shorts	Saturday, 10-12
<i>Dead Enders</i>	Fidel Ruiz-Healy, Tyler Walker	Narrative Shorts	Saturday, 10-12
<i>Don't be Dainty...It's Derby</i>	Alix Speyer Bacher	CT Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 12-2
<i>Esmeralda</i>	Jennifer Greco	Student Shorts	Saturday, 10-12
<i>Exodus</i>	Emily Merola	Student Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Eye Spy</i>	Sarah Daudoin	Family	Sunday, 1-2
<i>Eyecatcher</i>	Jun Shimizu	Narrative Shorts	Saturday, 4-6
<i>Featherweight</i>	Robert Kolodny	Feature	Saturday, 7-10
<i>Flounder</i>	Sam Cutler-Kreutz, David Cutler-Kreutz	Narrative Shorts	Saturday, 4-6
<i>Flutz</i>	Ryan Mccown	Narrative Shorts	Saturday, 4-6
<i>For Child Never Born</i>	Afsaneh Aghanezhad, Vali Badheri	International Best of Fest	Sunday, 2-4
<i>Fractal</i>	Kiarra Goldberg	Narrative Shorts	Saturday, 4-6
<i>Ghost Song</i>	Crystal Manich	Music Videos/Animation	Saturday, 4-5
<i>Haunting of Compo</i>	Caleb Martin Berger	CT Student Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Hedgehog</i>	D. Mityr	International Best of Fest	Sunday, 2-4
<i>How to Paint a Peace Sign</i>	Rick Gomez	CT Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 12-2
<i>Incoherence</i>	Emily Rodriguez	CT Student Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Inmate</i>	Enrique Lebron	CT Narrative Shorts	Sunday, 4-6
<i>Into the Thicket</i>	Devany Greenwood	Narrative Shorts	Saturday, 4-6
<i>Invisible Ties</i>	Megan Du Plessis	Student Shorts	Saturday, 10-12
<i>Is That It?</i>	Simon Magnifico	CT Student Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Kumquat</i>	Meeni Hardart	CT Narrative Shorts	Sunday, 4-6
<i>Lucky You're Mine</i>	Steven Santoro	Music Videos/Animation	Saturday, 4-5



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FILM LISTINGS M-Z

Film Title	Director	Category	Time
<i>Made in Bridgeport</i>	Augustina Aranda	CT Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 12-2
<i>Marcel The Muscle Man</i>	Michael Joseph Murray	Student Shorts	Saturday, 10-12
<i>Mirror Mirror</i>	Johannes DeYoung, Natalie Westbrook	Music Videos/Animation	Saturday, 4-5
<i>Money Talks</i>	Buster Comaskey	Music Videos/Animation	Saturday, 4-5
<i>Not the Same Clarence</i>	Brian Russell, Brian B. Russell	CT Narrative Shorts	Sunday, 4-6
<i>Nu Metal Will Never Die</i>	Colter Harris	Narrative Shorts	Saturday, 4-6
<i>Our Males and Females</i>	Ahmad Alyaseer	International Best of Fest	Sunday, 2-4
<i>Penny</i>	Caroline Duncan	CT Narrative Shorts	Sunday, 4-6
<i>Playboy Lover</i>	Wylie Soltes	Music Videos/Animation	Saturday, 4-5
<i>PTO</i>	Taylor Becker	Student Shorts	Saturday, 10-12
<i>Rattle</i>	Jaina Cipriano	Music Videos/Animation	Saturday, 4-5
<i>REM</i>	Muhamnadreza Yarikia	International Best of Fest	Sunday, 2-4
<i>Resurgence</i>	Krushan Naik	Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Resurrection Under the Ocean</i>	Serkan Aktas	Music Videos/Animation	Saturday, 4-5
<i>Say Something</i>	Augustina Aranda	CT Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 12-2
<i>Self Portrait of Lee Holin</i>	Elliot Atkinson, Brendan Hickey	Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>The Audition</i>	Sadie-Grey Murphy	CT Student Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>The Championship Rounds</i>	John Spinnato	CT Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 12-2
<i>The Farmington Land Trust</i>	CJ Calcinari	CT Student Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>The Firefly Jar</i>	Gary Fierro	Family	Sunday, 1-2
<i>The Hanover Incident</i>	Charles Alexander Berlepsch	CT Narrative Shorts	Sunday, 4-6
<i>The Ladder</i>	Christopher Orrico	CT Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 12-2
<i>The Librarian</i>	Serkan Aktas	International Best of Fest	Sunday, 2-4
<i>The Moms</i>	Katie Goodman	Narrative Shorts	Saturday, 4-6
<i>The Perfect Shot: Antartica</i>	Quinn Halleck	Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>The Screens</i>	Erik Champney	CT Narrative Shorts	Sunday, 4-6
<i>To Somewhere, With Me</i>	Sarah Sewell	CT Student Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Tough For A Girl</i>	JD Freda	CT Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 12-2
<i>Unredeemable</i>	Todd Kapostasy	Documentary Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>Wesley Part I</i>	Parker Toth	CT Student Shorts	Saturday, 2-4
<i>You Are Not Small</i>	Sherene Strausberg	Family	Sunday, 1-2
<i>You Think Although You are Not</i>	Salaheddin Noori	International Best of Fest	Sunday, 2-4



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PANEL CONTENT

NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY ADULT PROGRAM ROOM, 2nd Floor | BELDEN AVENUE

Student & Professional Mixer

Saturday, January 20, 11 am - 12 pm

An opportunity for students and young professionals to mingle and talk shop with established veterans in film and television.

Developing Your Doc

Saturday, January 20, 12 – 1 pm

Moderated by: Larry Locke

Featuring: Marge Costa, Kevin Huffman, Jason Coombs

Crowdfunding Your Film: Experiences & Tips

Saturday, January 20, 1 - 2 pm

Moderated by: Sean Fox

Featuring: Adam Rackoff,
Alex Morsanutto, Carla Seet

Foot in the Door:

Getting Started as a Production Assistant

Sunday, January 21, 2 – 3 pm

Moderated by: Ray Noia

Featuring: Dusty Noval, Janine Rupprecht, Solomon Sheffield

New Technology in Content Creation

Sunday, January 21, 3 – 4 pm

Moderated by: Justin Matley

Featuring: Garrett Beltis, Evan Kelman, and Matt Miller

PANELIST BIOS

GARRETT BELTIS New Technology in Content Creation

Garrett's passion for visual media and storytelling has led to pursuits in television, documentary film, animation, and puppetry. He is currently a Senior Producer at Nickelodeon Digital Studios, a member of the Producers Guild of America, and a volunteer with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America. Since joining Nick in 2019, he created a SpongeBob-branded puppet series that has over 54 million views collectively. This current role came after spending 5+ years cutting his teeth at World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), during which he also earned his MBA from Southern New Hampshire University. He's continued his education through improv, sketch comedy and script writing courses at the Upright Citizens Brigade.

JASON COOMBS Developing Your Doc

Jason is a New York City-based writer, actor, and filmmaker. As a performer he has appeared in dozens of films, tv shows and web series including *SNL* (NBC), *Mr. Robot* (USA Network), and *Pretenders* (SSS Entertainment), among others. As a writer, his television pilot, *Chasers*, was a semifinalist at the 2017 ITV Festival and made it to the second round of the 2018 Macro Lab Screenwriting contest sponsored by *The Blacklist* and Lena Waithe. In 2021 he won the

Coverfly Roadmap's Diversity Initiative. He has produced award-winning short films that have premiered in festivals worldwide including Chelsea Film Festival. Jason was an Archival Associate Producer on the six-episode docuseries *Harry and Meghan*, on Netflix. He is also the Founder and the Artistic Director of the Bridgeport Film Fest and co-hosts the podcast, *Survival Jobs* in collaboration with *Broadway World*.

MARGE COSTA Developing Your Doc

Marge is a member of the Norwalk Film Festival's Leadership Team. She is the owner of Aries Productions LLC, a video and film production company that has helped hundreds of clients tell their story for over 30 years. Marge is a writer, director, producer, and editor. She specializes in documentary filmmaking and has won numerous awards. Her films bring viewers into new worlds and experiences through the captivating use of factual information about real people, places and events. Aries Productions' most recent film credits include, *Remembering The Family Store*, which chronicles the proud history of Downtown Stamford, circa 1940-1965, and *My Name is Joan*, which highlights the abuse and illegal exportation of children born to unwed mothers in Ireland's mother and baby homes from the 1920s until the 1990s. Marge is working on a new documentary, *What*

happened to Tony Kelly, which is due to be released this year.

SEAN FOX Crowdfunding Your Film: Experiences & Tips

Sean is a writer, director, & producer, and also provides script coverage and ghost writing services. He has a wide array of experience, having spent 10+ years in production management in documentary/reality TV in New York. Additionally, he has self-produced, written, and directed two short films, two web series, and some comedy sketches. He has improv training at The Magnet Theater in NYC and sketch classes at The PIT. Sean is also on the board of the [Norwalk Film Festival](#), and spent almost a decade living in Astoria, NY but now calls Norwalk, CT home with his wife, daughter, and doofy dog, Barbara. He has traveled all over the world for work and for fun, and is a big supporter of the New York Rangers, Yankees, and FC Köln.

KEVIN HUFFMAN Developing Your Doc

Kevin is a Lead Creative Producer, Writer and Director of high-profile documentaries on Netflix, Showtime, HBO and TNT. Kevin has expertise in developing high-stakes series with social and political impact. He is a creative producer for directors Alex Gibney, Joe Berlinger & Fishwith top editors on story structure. Kevin is also a podcast producer & director, and consults on documentaries with his company DocStory 911.

Evan Ari Kelman **New Technology in** **Content Creation**

Evan is a New York City filmmaker with a passion for creating emotionally powerful experiences for audiences. His New York University thesis narrative, *Bandito*, held its World Premiere at Tribeca Film Festival in 2015 and was awarded with the 2015 Wasserman Award for Best Directing from NYU. Kelman returned to Tribeca in 2016 with *One Good Pitch*, which he co-wrote and produced. In the summer of 2016, Kelman produced the narrative short, *Homing In*, which screened at the British Film Institute. Kelman's first feature film script, *With These Eyes* was awarded a 2016 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Writing Award. His latest short, *Where There's Smoke*, held its World Premiere at Tribeca Film Festival 2017 and won the Grand Jury Award for Best Short Film (Live Action) at the Edmonton International Film Festival, and qualified for the 2019 Academy Awards. Kelman's latest feature *Barron's Cove*, was announced as a semi-finalist for the Academy's prestigious Nicholl Fellowships for Screenwriting and also appeared on the 2021 Black List.

LARRY LOCKE **Developing Your Doc**

Larry is a member of the Norwalk Film Festival's Leadership Team. Larry is multi-award-winning producer/director whose films have screened at major film festivals worldwide, including the Toronto International Film Festival, (IDFA) International Documentary Festival Amsterdam,

Slamdance, (SXSW) South By Southwest, DOC NYC, Cinequest, Doc N Roll UK and many others. The Herald, a short made with his son Trevor, won the 2022 International Mobile Journalism Award for Best Documentary. Larry's new feature documentary, *Heaven Stood Still: The Incarnations of Willy DeVille*, started a 10 city, 7 country tour in Europe on January 17, 2023, and continues to screen to sellout crowds worldwide.

JUSTIN MATLEY **New Technology in** **Content Creation**

Justin is an award-winning Post Sound / Re-Recording Mixer, Sound Designer, and Music Director & Supervisor for the broadcast, news, motion picture, and advertising industries. He owns Black Oak Sound, an audio post production company based in Norwalk. His projects have won Academy, BAFTA, Emmy, Cannes Lion, and Promax awards, just to name a few, and are featured across dozens of international festivals, broadcast networks, and digital media. Justin is also adjunct faculty at the University of Connecticut, Department of Digital Media and Design, where he teaches coursework in sound technology, and is a News and Documentary Emmy voter. Serving his community, Justin is on the Board of Directors of local news website, Nancy on Norwalk; is the Founder of the local education organization, the Norwalk Parents Initiative; is on the Leadership Committee for the Norwalk Film Festival; and is on the Community Advisory Council for the School+State Finance Project. He's an avid Red Sox fan, skier, mediocre tequila drinker, amateur

gardener, and lover of most things outdoors. Above all, his most important roles are as a husband and father to two amazing girls.

MATT MILLER **New Technology in** **Content Creation**

Matt found his love for television and post-production while at Full Sail University. After working at multiple post studios recording talent, including Kevin Bacon, Elijah Wood, and Ethan Hawke, he spent 8+ years working at WWE as an Editing Producer. Currently he is a Producer at Nickelodeon Digital Studios which primarily focuses on the Big Nick Cartoons such as SpongeBob, Avatar, and TMNT.

ALEX MORSANUTTO **Crowdfunding Your Film:** **Experiences & Tips**

Alex is a member of the Norwalk Film Festival's Leadership Team. He is an award-winning Film/Commercial Director. His work has been used for brands such as Unilever, Kiehl's, The Atlantic, FOX Sports, CBS, Chevrolet, and Kona Brewing Company. As a writer/director, he is in development on TV/film concepts from digital series to feature films. Alex is also an Executive Producer at Silvermine Productions which creates films, music videos, and commercials focusing on pushing the boundaries of visual aesthetics. He is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

RAY NOIA **Foot in the Door:** **Getting Started as a PA**

Ray is the Line Producer on the Sherri/Daytime Talk Show. He started his career in 1991 as a PA

for a nightly prime-access news program hosted by Gerald Rivera. After a year he moved to *A Current Affair* where he began booking ENG crews nationally and internationally, booked satellite feeds, and managed daily Post-Production. From there he moved *Extra* in the same capacity. After 5 years he freelanced as a Production Manager, ENG audio operator, gaffer, grip, and video utility for all the major networks, in documentaries, and on various reality shows. In 2004 landed the Production Manager job on a daytime talk show hosted by Tony Danza. After that, Ray went to Rachael Ray's daytime talker, then to Tyra, where he became the Line Producer. After that, Ray landed at the Wendy Williams show where he was fortunate enough to work on the show for the shows entire 13 year run. Now he is at Sherri as Line Producer where he crews the show, manages budgets, deals behind the scenes with cameras, audio and lighting. Ray also manages ENG field shoots and their post-production and also tech produces music acts when they appear on the show, amongst many other things.

DUSTY NOVAL **Foot in the Door:** **Getting Started as a PA**

Dusty's narrative scripts typically center around strong female protagonists. Screenplays include an Irish American family dramedy, *Easter Rising*, and two short narratives: a psycho-thriller *The Farm* and the dark comedy, *Last Girl's Trip*. She has also written two pilots; an hourlong dystopian drama in the aftermath of a pandemic, *The Meek*, and comedy, *Drama*

Queens. Dusty is set to graduate Spring 2020 from Fairfield University with an MFA in Dramatic Writing.

ADAM RACKOFF **Crowdfunding Your** **Film: Experiences & Tips**

Adams an award-winning independent filmmaker, former Apple marketing executive, illustrator, graphic artist, podcaster, and crowdfunding expert. Rackoff is the long-time producing partner of actor Matthew Modine and together co-founded the Cinco Dedos Peliculas production company to develop narrative films, documentaries, animation projects, apps, and environmental initiatives. Rackoff is the recipient of over 40 awards, including two Webby Awards — the first for co-producing the New York Times web series *Trump Bites*, and the second for producing the political documentary, *The Brainwashing of My Dad*.
Twitter/X: @AdamRackoff

JANINEE RUPPRECHT **Foot in the Door:** **Getting Started as a PA**

Janine was cleaning up the "games" cabinet per her parents' request, and found an old camcorder. Without telling a soul she took that camera and began bringing it to friends' houses to create short films, music videos, and a "reality horror" series. Her family still shared the same desktop computer at this point so she pretty much shot everything as an in-camera edit so as to not raise suspicion. Years later a

friend gifted her a Flip HD camera, saved enough for a MacBook, and finally discovered editing. Against her business-escapants' wishes, she pursued a B.A. in filmmaking and studio art and currently have credits with Netflix, HBO, The History Channel, HGTV, Lifetime, ESPN, and recently AC'd a reality show featured on TLC.

CARLA SEET **Crowdfunding Your Film:** **Experiences & Tips**

Carla Seet is an actor, writer, and singer based in New York City. Recent credits include the short films *Silent Key*, *Cycle*, and *Dinner for Two*. Upcoming projects include the feature film *Skip* and the short film *The Appraiser*, which she wrote and co-produced. In addition to performing and writing, she holds a Master's in Public Health from New York University and conducts research in the areas of nutrition and food policy.

SOLOMAN SHEFFIELD **Foot in the Door:** **Getting Started as a PA**

Soloman got involved in film production in 2019 with no particular goal in mind except to be part of the world of movies and television. A design degree and freelance experience aside, humility is what have gotten Solomon to work on networks and sets in reality, live television and scripted projects.



NORWALK FILM FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jennifer Bangser

Director of Strategic Community Partnerships at the Westport Library, Co-producer 3Birds Storytelling

Marge Costa

Filmmaker/Producer, Film Teacher, Director at Norwalk Education Foundation

Sean Fox

TV Production Manager & Producer of Web Series and Short Film

Larry Locke

Filmmaker, Long time NYC Edit House Co- Owner, Occasional Guest Lecturer on Documentary Processes

Justin Matley

Principal/Executive Producer at Black Oak Sound, Sound Designer & Mixer, and Music Director

Alex Morsanutto

Filmmaker and Founder of Silvermine Productions

ADVISORY BOARD

Wendy Bodden

Documentary Film Consultant, Strategic Partnership Specialist

Jason A. Coombs

Executive Director, Bridgeport Film Festival

Kim Dewitt

Regional Director, Financial Services

Aniqa Islam

Social Media Specialist, Multimedia Content Producer

Diane Jellerette

Executive Director, Norwalk Historical Society

Lucia C. Rilling

First Lady of Norwalk, Connecticut

Steve Rust

Associate, Theater Projects, Member Norwalk Commission

In addition to our leadership team, the following individuals dedicated hours to judging films, insuring film selections align with the mission of The Norwalk Film Festival

Randi Barros, Wayde Bodden, Wendy Bodden, Philp Dolin, Sam Henriques

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FESTIVAL WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS!

Dan Bangser
Veronica Bilenkin
Susan Carbnas
Jessica Chadourn
Patricia Clark Barry
Fitzsimmons

Scarlett. Gonzalez
Reilly Grand
Zoe Guaman
Andrea Irigoyen
Will Johnson
Oliver Kaufman

Pablo Sanchez-Levallois
Ed Shin
Kathleen Spellman
Vito Spina
Tiara Starks
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PRODUCER LEVEL



the ROWAYTON
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

EDITOR LEVEL



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Department of Economic and
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WALL STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT



A Little About the Wall Street Historic District

The Wall Street Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is one of six Historic Districts in Norwalk, along with South Norwalk (SoNo), Five Mile River Landing, the Norwalk Green, and Whistleville, a neighborhood around the South Norwalk Train Station that just received its designation this year.

A commercial and civic center encompassing 42 buildings, the Wall Street Historic District includes an 1860 Gothic Revival church at the corner of Wall and Mott Streets. Wall Street itself cuts through the historic core of Norwalk, with East Avenue at one end and West Avenue at the other.

In recent years the area has begun to experience a renaissance. The Wall Street Theater was renovated and reopened in 2017, and new additions like the Head of the Harbor apartments, which overlook the Norwalk River, continue to enhance the neighborhood. In 2020, a mural appeared along the street depicting a colorful bunch of balloons floating up to the sky and the words “Wall Street is on the Rise”.

The main objective of a National Historic District designation is to preserve the historic character and buildings of the area by supporting and encouraging renovations and rehabilitation, as well as to enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses. Once an area is designated an official historic district, property owners are eligible for tax incentives and financial assistance programs from the State and the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency to help finance historic preservation projects and property improvements.

Please enjoy The Wall Street Historic District between films. All our venues are located in close proximity, surrounded by the many shops, food and drink establishments, and galleries that make up this exciting and newly revitalized neighborhood. Thank you for supporting our local businesses



The Norwalk Film Festival (NFF) was founded by a grassroots community of volunteers composed of filmmakers, cultural leaders, and movie lovers living and working in Norwalk. The goal of the NFF is to bring together local communities and stimulate on- going dialogues generated by the power of cinema.

Our theme of “Unity Through Diversity Through Film” celebrates and acknowledge the many walks of life, ethnicities, and backgrounds of Norwalk residents by providing a window into their lives and the issues they face.

DONATE HERE

Contributions are fully deductible under federal tax regulations. The Norwalk Film Festival is a fiscally sponsored program of the Norwalk Arts Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. The mission of the Norwalk Arts Society is to improve the general public's awareness and appreciation of arts, culture, and education in Norwalk. Contributions made payable to the Norwalk Arts Society for the purposes of supporting the Norwalk Film Festival are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Email: norwalkartssociety@gmail.com

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