

1ST ANNUAL



BERNARDSVILLE
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

October 27-29 2023

**Bernardsville Cinema
5 Mine Brook Rd
Bernardsville, NJ 07924**



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About The Festival



BERNARDSVILLE
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Bernardsville sits at the very seat of the American Revolution. This quiet, historical town is the perfect location to celebrate this uniquely American art form. Motion Pictures.

It is with that spirit that the Bernardsville Cinema and FenceSitter Films has announced the first annual Bernardsville Film Festival.

The goal is to bring movie lovers together to celebrate the future of cinema with four days of parties, award ceremonies, and most importantly, MOVIES!

The Bernardsville Film Festival will highlight a varied and diverse slate of films including:

- Feature Films
- Documentaries
- Shorts (narrative and documentary form)
- Exit 10 tract celebrating New Jersey filmmakers

About The Theater

In 1913, the Bernardsville Cinema opened its cavernous 500 seat theater and has been in continuous operation ever since. Originally named The Columbus Theater, it began as a vaudeville theater. In 1920, silent films replaced vaudeville acts until 1929 when “talkies” came in. In order to keep up with the changing times, the interior of the grand old theater was converted to a triplex theater in the early 1990’s, yet there has been little change to the exterior.

In 2020, the 110 year old building celebrated its 100th anniversary as a continuously run motion picture theater and remains one of the very few totally independent theater with no chain affiliation in operation in the United States.



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Festival Producers



Kyle Schickner has been making films for over 30 years. He has worked with Golden Globe winner and Hollywood Icon Ruby Dee, as well as Ally Sheedy, Chelsea Handler, and Kate Siegel. With his seven independent feature films having screened at over 100 festivals around the world, Kyle wanted to bring the excitement of the film festival to Bernardsville. A Mendham resident, he is the driving force behind FenceSitter Films which focuses on telling stories about women, people of color and those in the LGBT communities.



Julianne Reynolds is an award winning filmmaker and photojournalist and Executive Producer of Romanski Films. Julianne produced the first film festival in Topanga, CA, and has been a producer on several other festivals in the US. Her film "Keepers of the Song", won Best Cinematography, at the Rishikesh International Film Festival, and several of her film works have been seen on CNN, WDR TV Germany.

Selection Committee

Ella Slayne
 Christian Schickner
 Flash Tweedie
 Trishna Goswami
 Sue Kralle
 Aniza Jahangirahangir
 Luca Millea
 Olivia Pescatore

Festival Partners



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Monday-Saturday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm



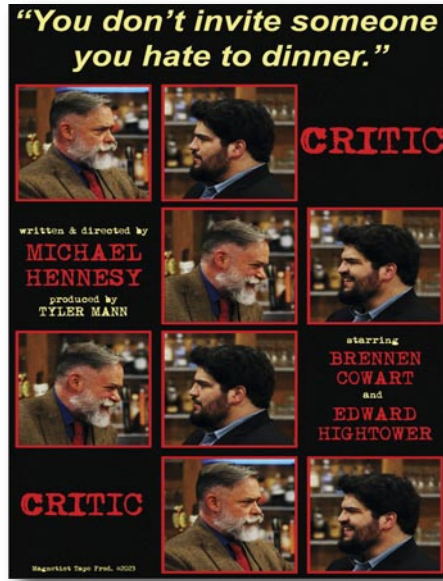
Friday, October 27 - 7:00 PM
Friday Night Trinity



Birnam Woods
(Narrative short)

This beautifully shot short is a fevered re-imagining of Shakespeare's Macbeth in Birnam Wood. With top notch performances and a haunting score, this film will make you fall in love with The Bard.

Directed by Maxwell C. Blackriver



Critic
(Narrative short)

After savaging a reclusive Director's new film, a disenchanted Film Critic is surprised to find himself invited to dinner with them, where their match of wits soon turns into something far more sinister.

Directed by Michael Allen Hennesy



Laundry Etiquette
(Narrative short)

When someone has complete faith and vulnerability around you, time feels inconsequential because of that strength. However, once that sacred feeling is broken, two people can become strangers in an instant. This film is about memories between two people doing laundry who are now strangers.

Directed by Kyle Alister Berdin, & Colin Clark

CLOSING NIGHT AWARD CEREMONY CELEBRATION!

Join us at: Kiera Elise Collection · 21 Mine Brook Road, Bernardsville

Tickets available here

Come celebrate with the filmmakers and attendees as we fade to black on the First Annual International Bernardsville Film Festival. Raise a glass as the winners are announced in...

- Best Narrative Film (feature or short)**
- Best Documentary (feature or short)**
- Best Screenplay**
- Best Actor**
- Best Director**



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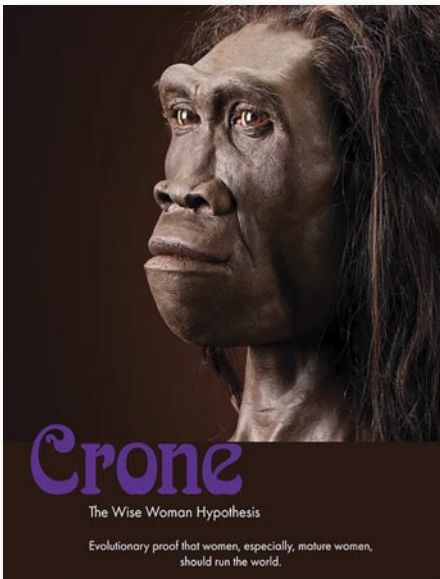
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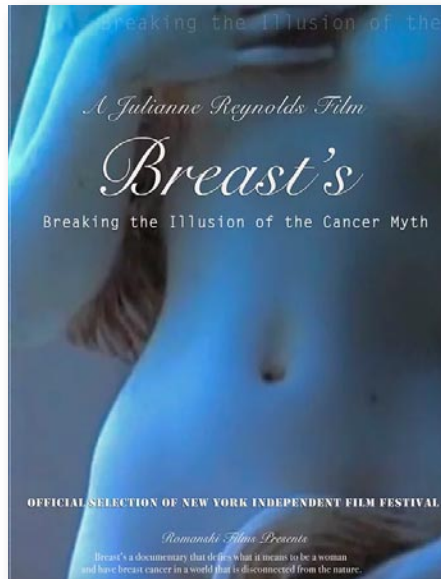
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Saturday, October 27 - 1PM
**Women's Documentary
 Film Block and Panel**



Crone: The Wise Woman Hypothesis
 (Documentary feature)

There is no shortage of examples where women, particularly mature women, are marginalized. One can't deny that our whole society seems suited to suppress them. We weren't always this way and the filmmaker's journey to discover this started with his desire to help his wife better understand her emotional struggles with menopause. After an OBGYN told him, "We have to treat menopause to fix nature's mistake," he knew that an investigation of the origin of menopause was necessary.



Breasts - The Miracles, Mysteries & Myths
 (Documentary short)

This intimate documentary captures the personal stories of Lisa Cianci and Andrew Germain, both emotionally devastated by their mothers getting breast cancer while they were young children. This topic of "Breast Cancer" hadn't reach main stream media in the 80's - YET - and both of them had no where to turn, so they kept silent - until now.

Directed by Julianne Reynolds



Julianne Reynolds
 PHOTOGRAPHY



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Main STREET

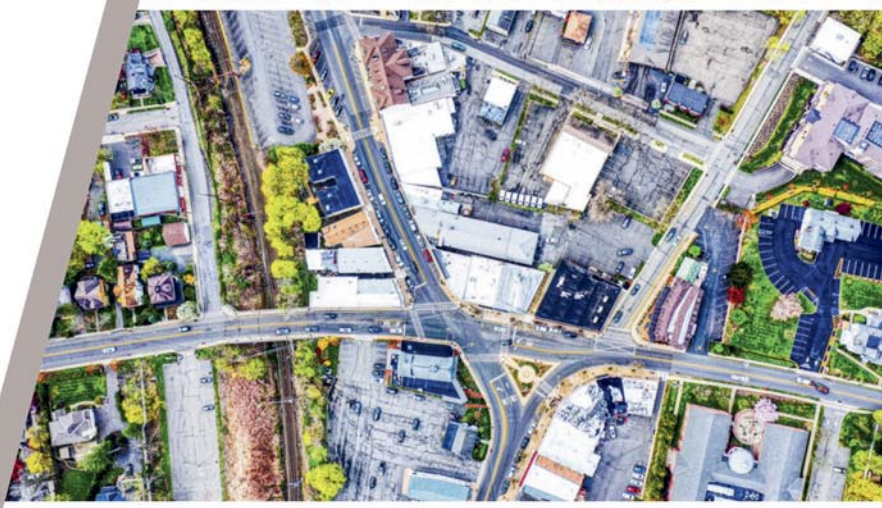
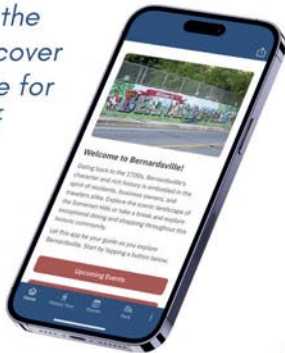
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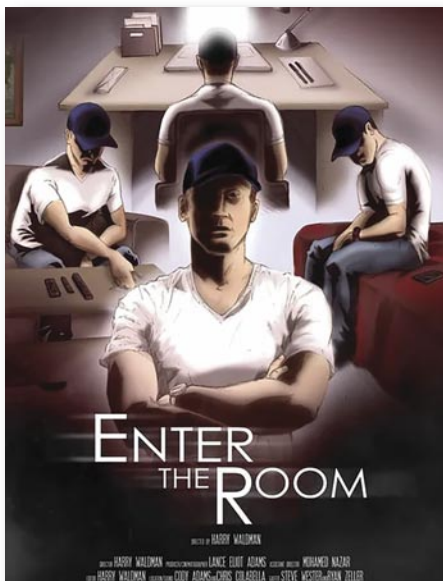
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Saturday, October 28 - 4:00 PM
Trinity of Trippy Films



Enter The Room
(Narrative short)

A young adult is visited by his brother, Jeremy, who needs a place to stay as he settles into his new city. The two polar opposite personalities begin to clash as Jeremy's presence poses a threat to Brian's way of life. Bad blood, stemming from a traumatic past event reveals the shocking truth of the brothers' current situations, as Brian struggles to differentiate between reality and his worst nightmares.

Directed by Harry Waldman



A Box of Chocolates
(Narrative short)

Ron has the opportunity to land a role on the next big streaming series! He just has to nail the audition. To get into character, Ron makes a reckless decision and loses a piece of himself he never thought he'd lose...

Directed by Cris Thorne



Valentine Crush
(Narrative feature)

A roller derby woman gets in a little over her head when she meets her number one fan. The film is filled with twists and turns enough to keep you guessing.

Directed by James Wede



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Saturday, October 28 - 7:00 PM
Saturday Night Shorts



Leonardi's Jewel of Wonder
 (Narrative short)
 It's 1930. Two runaway carries steal a fortune teller's jewel only to find out it's cursed. This gorgeous two person film builds tension and pathos all while sitting around a campfire.
Directed by Maxwell C. Blackriver



The Mall Man
 (Narrative short)
 "Death of a Salesman" goes to the mall in this darkly comic satire of American consumerism and the fading status of shopping malls in contemporary society. In "The Mall Man", a shopping mall manager undertakes a marathon session of wheeling-and-dealing in a last-ditch effort to bring life back to his failing mall.
Directed by Dustin Morrow



Egress (Narrative short)
 A young Swiss couple, eager to buy their first house, learn that the prior owners might not be ready to sell even though they may not even be alive.
Directed by Andy Lee

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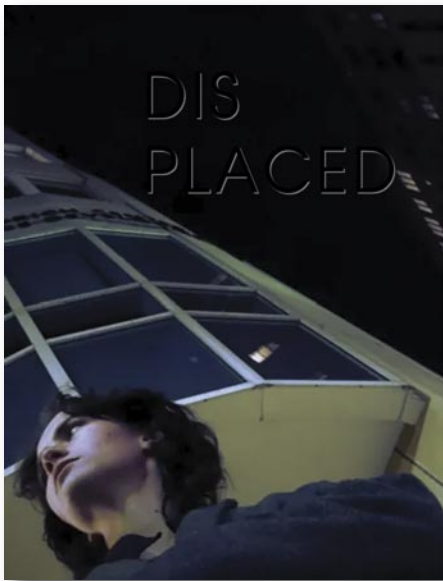
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Saturday, October 28 - 7:00 PM
Saturday Night Shorts
 (continued)



Displaced
 (Narrative short)

The sounds and tension of the city are uncomfortable for those who are lost and alone. In life, we find solace in the strangest places that can alter the rest of our perception, even if it but for a moment. This film is a manifestation of that feeling over the course of one night into a day.

Directed by Kyle Alister Berdin



Sara
 (Narrative short)

A young dance instructor must deal with a group of obnoxious teenagers bent on disrupting her class. Can she stand up to the bullies before losing her students?

Directed by Jake Wichansky, & Holden Zuschlag



Tied
 (Narrative short)

In this film from Korea, Sungwon longs to be a musical theater actor, but failed audition after failed audition has left her in a financially dire position. Desperate and alone, feeling that the whole world doesn't understand her, she finds an old book in a quiet cafe and leaves a message of her pain and despair inside.

Directed G-Hey Kim



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The First Annual
FenceSitter Film Festival

April 18-21, 2024 · Bernardsville Cinema

For three days and nights Bernardsville will celebrate the rich diversity within the independent film world. With feature length and short films, staged screenplay readings, parties, meet-ups and salons, The FenceSitter Film Festival will highlight the movies by and about Women, People and Color and the LGBT Community.

Early bird VIP passes
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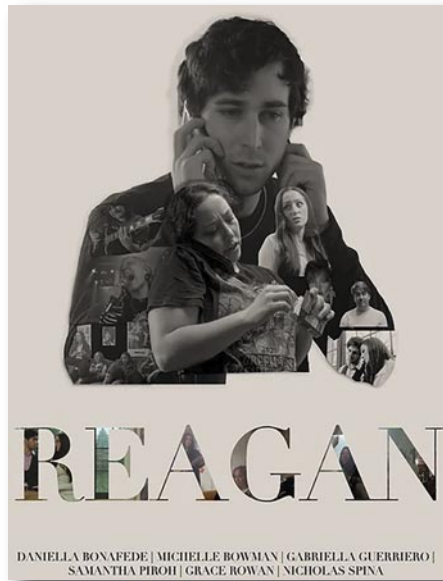
Sunday, October 29 - Noon
NJ Shorts @ Noon



Bunco Babes
(Narrative short)

A dramedy about twelve New Jersey women in their sixties who play a monthly Bunco dice game. Unfortunately, they haven't been able to hold a match in a few months as one of their own either dies, or moves to Florida. Tonight's no different...

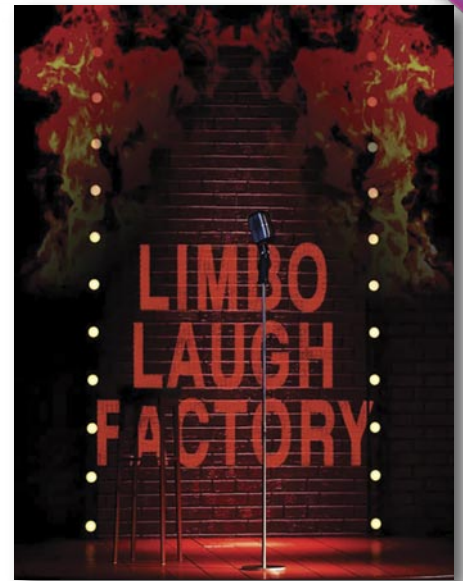
Directed by Kevin Bible



Reagan
(Narrative short)

Ben proposes to his fiancée, Maggie, but things get complicated when he tries to reconnect with his estranged sister, Reagan, to invite her to the wedding. Growing pains, holding on, and letting go are the name of the game in this short drama.

Directed by Daniella Bonafede & Nick Spina



Limbo Laugh Factory
(Narrative short)

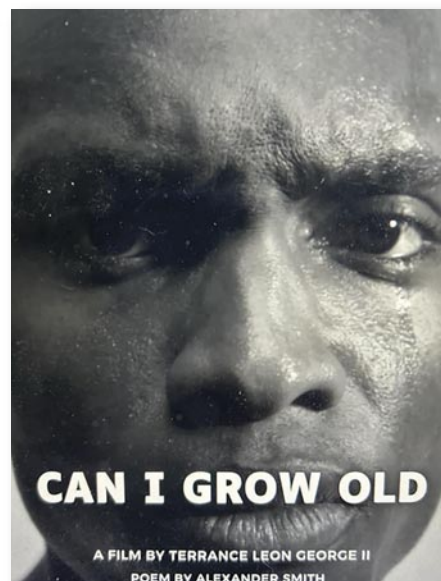
In a small comedy club, a group of comedians are showcasing themselves at an open mic night. There is an unusual amount of pressure on each one to be funny tonight...but we soon realize that tonight, there is much more at stake than just making people laugh. Tonight, being funny is a matter of life or death.

Directed by Joshua Nelson

The Man from Granada
(Narrative short)

An actor must win the lead role in "The Man From Granada" stage play to capture the heart of the actress he loves.

Directed by David Musolf

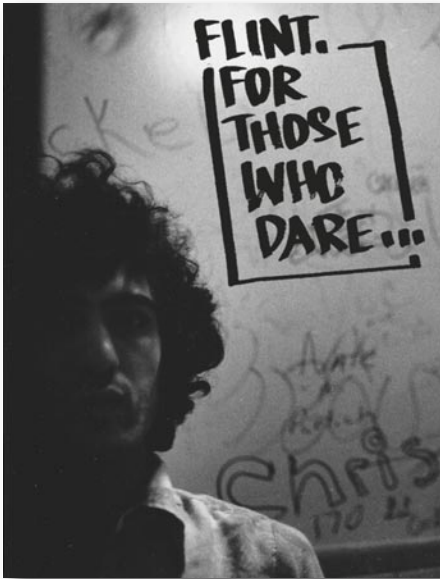


Can I Grow Old
(Narrative short)

Lyrical and heart-breaking, this short tells the brief story of a man who is facing death speaking his last words, wondering what could have been but never will be.

Directed by Terrance Leon George

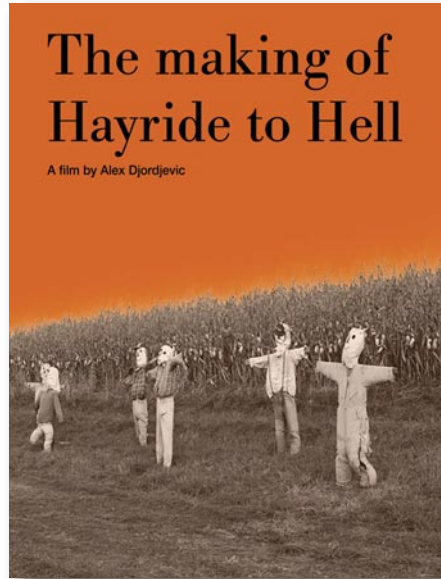
Sunday, October 29 - 3:00 PM
Documentary Shorts



FLINT
 (Documentary short)

Early New York City graffiti writer and documentarian Roberto "Flint..." Gennari, has the opportunity to cement his legacy in the art world half a century later.

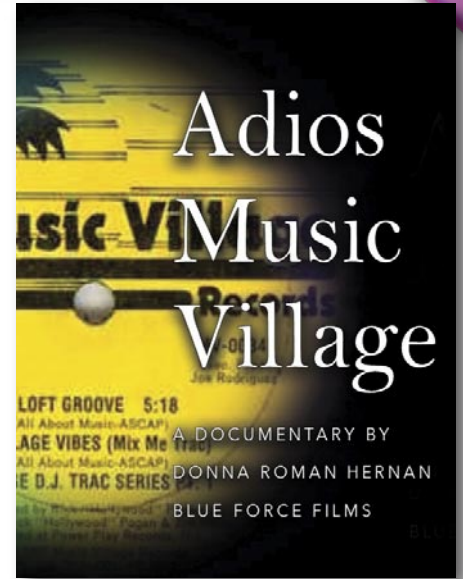
Directed by Raul Barquet



The Making of Hayride to Hell
 (Documentary short)

A behind the scenes look at what one film lover will do to make a horror film on his family farm. With friends and family pitching in, the film illustrates how film can bring people together..

Directed by Alex Djordjevic



Adios Music Village
 (Documentary short)

Adios Music Village honors the legacy of Jose 'Joe' Rodriguez the founder of Music Village, the first Latino music shop that opened in 1975 in the North Ward of Newark, NJ. The weekend before Music Village closed up shop, Joe gathered with his family, friends, musicians, DJs and loyal customers to reminisce, to celebrate his iconic legacy in the City of Newark, New Jersey and to

say adios to Music Village.

Directed by Donna Roman-Hernandez

The Arts Council of the Mendhams endorses and supports local filmmaking. We wish the Bernardsville International Film Fest team and all of the participating artists a fantastic festival this year!



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