



PARKWAY
HOME OF THE MARYLAND FILM FEST

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For Immediate Release

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**Maryland Film Festival Goes Virtual, June 12-21, 2020;
Showcases Diverse Stories for Film Enthusiasts;
Four U.S. and World Premieres to Take Place**

Press Registration Now Open

BALTIMORE – SNF Parkway, home of the Maryland Film Festival (MdFF), announced today that the annual festival will be offered virtually over two weeks, taking place from June 12th-21st. While the film festival was to take place from April 29 – May 3, due to the ongoing executive order enacted by Governor Larry Hogan for the state of Maryland on March 16, 2020, the SNF Parkway Theatre has been closed since March 13th. This year’s virtual screenings of 15 feature films and more than 150 short films across 14 categories were selected from those films that had previously been announced as official selections of the 2020 Maryland Film Festival. New film screenings will be made available daily and each feature film will include a live filmmaker interactive event.

“MdFF Virtual represents our passion for supporting filmmakers and bringing these poignant stories to our loyal audiences. It is also an exciting opportunity for us to connect with a wider base of film enthusiasts outside of our region and share extraordinary interactive events of our annual festival with those who have never experienced it before,” said Sandra Gibson, Executive Director of the Maryland Film Festival and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Parkway. “I commend our team for taking an inventive approach to organizing this year’s festival by not only offering best in class virtual experiences but making our live special events available to audiences.”

Four film premieres will take place during the film festival:

I BLAME SOCIETY (North American Premiere) - GILLIAN HORVAT | USA | ENGLISH | 2020 | 84 MIN

Equal parts fascinating, darkly funny and chilling, Gillian Wallace Horvat’s I Blame Society is a decidedly different kind of black comedy. It stars Horvat as herself, a director desperately trying to make her big break. Discouraged, she decides to pick up an old script of hers called “I, Murderer,” which is based on something her friends once told her: that she would make a great murderer.

INSPECTOR IKE (World Premiere) - GRAHAM MASON | USA | ENGLISH | 2020 | 83 MIN

Inspector Ike, New York City's greatest police detective, finds himself in a high-stakes game of cat-and-mouse after the conniving understudy of an avant-garde theater group knocks off the star actor. A "lost TV movie" from the 1970's, INSPECTOR IKE mixes visual gags, slapstick, gross food, and heartfelt emotion. Think COLUMBO meets THE NAKED GUN, featuring a rogue's gallery of NYC's best comedians.

RAF (US Premiere) - HARRY CEPKA | CANADA | ENGLISH | 2019 | 91 MIN

A techno-laced exploration of a tumultuous friendship from its giddy beginning to its sudden end. In the twilight of her 20s, Raf works two jobs and spends her free time playing boardgames with her boyfriend's roommates. Privately, she fantasizes of a life of performance and dance clubs. Over the course of several charged encounters, she becomes friends with a charismatic and wealthy woman named Tal. Raf becomes infatuated with Tal's take-no-prisoners lifestyle. With Tal as her guide, Raf begins to see a new vision of herself, until a humiliating weekend at Tal's country home reveals the true power balance between them.

TEDDY, OUT OF TUNE (World Premiere) - DANIEL FREEMAN | USA | ENGLISH | 2020 | 66 MIN

With a piano strapped to the back of his truck, a nomadic street musician drives 2,000 miles north to Canada on an emotional mission to spread his mother's ashes.

Premieres for short films will also be made available throughout the festival.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to kick off our virtual festival announcements with an exciting slate of films that will take their first festival bow in the U.S., North America and/or the world in the 2020 Virtual MdFF," said Scott Braid, Director of Programming, Maryland Film Festival. "One of the exciting benefits of the virtual space is the schedule flexibility. You will have more freedom to create your own schedule and see more of the films presented by the festival, at your convenience. We simply cannot wait to share these films with you."

Adding to the film lineup will be our live special event taking place at 6 p.m. EST on June 12, 2020. MdFF Virtual hosts a Baltimore-centric **opening night celebration** with live performances with community partners, two live film screenings focusing on all new Baltimore-made short films and locally produced club music feature "Dark City Beneath the Beat," directed by Baltimore musician TT the Artist. This dynamic evening will end with Baltimore DJs spinning online for a unique and memorable afterparty.

For more information on our upcoming virtual events, film lineup and announcements associated with the festival, please visit <https://mdfilmfest.com/virtual-fest/>.

Press interested in covering MdFF Virtual should submit their application [here](#). Access to screening and live events will be made available for registered press only.

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About the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Parkway –

At the SNF Parkway Theatre, home of the annual Maryland Film Festival (MdFF), we are committed to serving and growing our community of independent filmmakers, audiences, and partners across Baltimore, Maryland, and beyond. MdFF typically takes place over five days and attracts talented filmmakers from all over the world but will present its

virtual festival in 2020 due to the pandemic. As Baltimore's only non-profit cinema and film organization, we offer unique and innovative programs that provide students, university partners and local filmmakers with the education, community network and opportunities that lend a pathway to thought provoking storytelling. Our theatre and programming reflect the creative vigor of Baltimore's arts community, while participating in the film and cultural dialogue across the country and the world. More information about the Parkway and MdFF is available at www.mdfilmfest.com.