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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2020 Underexposed Film Festival yc

Call for Filmmakers

ROCK HILL, SC – For nine seasons, the Underexposed Film Festival yc (UFFyc) has showcased the best in independent filmmaking from across the world. The UFFyc continues to focus on strength and diversity in storytelling, screening films that feature characters who come to life, giving the audience a glimpse into the creator’s world, and enveloping viewers in the unique elements of each film. The Festival never fails to accomplish its mission, providing an opportunity for both emerging and seasoned filmmakers to screen in the same forum, allowing their work to be viewed and their voices heard while encouraging dialogue between the two.

In 2019, the UFFyc hosted an improv acting and directing workshop led by Hollywood performance coach, Rob Adler. First-time filmmakers, seasoned professionals, and films that have found success including the 2018 Cannes Film Festival Palme d’Or short film *All These Creatures* screened at the UFFyc; and filmmakers such as Christine Papalexis (*Amaterasu, Team America: World Police*), Haven Nutt (*Mr. Man, Divulge*), and Rodney Stringfellow (*Manhood, The Backyardigans*), and Adria Tennor (*Pie, The Artist*) participated in question and answer sessions following the screening of their films.

Innovative, engaging, and unconventional, puppetry often leads the way in storytelling, however, puppetry films are often deemed incompatible in animation and experimental categories. In 2020, Puppetry finds its home in a place of honor at the UFFyc with the addition of a standalone category. Films featuring puppetry have been a part of the festival since its inception in 2012. Xavier Burgin’s *Bottom of a Glass* paved the way at the UFFyc for such notable films as *Sleight of Hand* (Michael Cusack; 2013 UFFyc Grand Jury Award), *Mia’* (Amanda Strong; UFFyc Woman to Watch), *The Ningyo* (World Premiere by Miguel Ortega), and *The Spirit Cabinet: The Mill at Calder’s End* and *The Narrative of Victor Karloch* (Kevin McTurk).

Independent filmmakers around the world are invited to submit professionally presented short films, with a runtime of 35 minutes or less to participate in this juried competition. Films screened at the Underexposed Film Festival yc must be York County, SC festival premieres. Submissions must fall into one of the following categories:

* Narrative | Fictional filmmaking that includes comedy, drama, action, thriller, adventure, fantasy, mystery, sci-fi, western, horror, film-noir, romance, sports, family-friendly, and more.
* Animation | Animated filmmaking - including but not limited to traditional, hand drawn animation, flip book animation, stop motion animation, computer animation, mechanical animation, mixed media, and special effects animation.
* Documentary | Non-fictional filmmaking that includes cultural, topical and historical subjects.
* Experimental | Experimental films may be avant-garde, non-linear, non-narrative, or include puppetry. They may include the utilization of abstracting techniques, asynchronous sound, and are not limited by the constraints of traditional filmmaking. But, don’t let us define it for you…
* Puppetry | Films that include the manipulation of puppets.

Awards totaling $2,350 will be presented at the Festival. Awards given to the best of show, as well as the best of each category, with special awards given to the following:

* Cinema Carolina | Best independent film made in North or South Carolina, regardless of category, content, or subject. 75% of the principal photography must take place in North or South Carolina to be eligible for this award.
* Woman to Watch | Best Female Director Award. All female directed films in each category are eligible for this award.
* Best Student Film (Collegiate) | Student films are eligible when created by a student filmmaker enrolled in a collegiate program while in production. All student films from each category are eligible for this award.
* Terry Roueche Audience Choice | Official Selections are eligible for the Terry Roueche Audience Choice Award. At each block that features Official Selections, the audience is invited to vote for their favorite Official Selection. Director’s Choice films are not eligible.

Entry deadlines and entry fees for the 2020 Underexposed Film Festival yc are as follows:

Earlybird: Sunday, October 6, 2019

Standard | $20

Student | $15

FilmFreeway Gold | $15

Regular: Sunday, November 17, 2019

Standard | $30

Student | $25

FilmFreeway Gold | $20

Last Chance: Sunday, December 15, 2019

Standard | $35

Student | $30

FilmFreeway Gold | $25

PUPPETRY: Sunday, December 15, 2019

Submissions made to the Puppetry category will be charged at a single fee schedule throughout the submission season.

Standard  |  $20

Student   |  $15

FilmFreeway Gold  | $15

For festival guidelines and entry information, visit the Underexposed Film Festival yc's site at Film Freeway at https://filmfreeway.com/UnderexposedFilmFestivalyc. The films selected for screening will be screened at the Underexposed Film Festival yc, to be held in Rock Hill, SC, in March of 2020. Visit underexposedfilmfestivalyc.org for more information on all UFFyc events and screenings.

The Arts Council is headquartered in downtown Rock Hill, a state-recognized cultural district. For more information on Arts Council events, contact the Arts Council of York County at 803-328-2787, by email at [arts@yorkcountyarts.org](mailto:arts@yorkcountyarts.org), or visit our webpage at http://www.yorkcountyarts.org.

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