49th Annual USA Film Festival
April 24-28, 2019
Angelica Film Center Dallas

Fest Tix On Sale 4/10

Advance Tickets on sale 4/10 until 4/22 (Door sales only after 4/22)
www.ticketmaster.com/usaff
**PREMIERES AND PROGRAMS**

**Opening Night - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**

**HALSTON**  
Wednesday, April 24 7:00pm  
Roy Halston Frowick -- better known simply as Halston -- lived a distinctly 1970s and '80s version of the American dream that took him as high and far astray as Studio 54, Wall Street, Paris, and countless points in between. One of the most talented and influential fashion designers of his era, Halston rose from humble beginnings in Des Moines, Iowa, to the top of a fashion empire via designing an iconic pillbox hat for a certain First Lady, hot pants, elegant women's wear, a perfume line, and through his hedonistic revelries with friends that included Liza Minnelli and Andy Warhol - - until everything changed in the Wall Street era when Halston took the biggest gamble of his life. Written, directed, and produced by Frédéric Tcheng (Dior and I), this fascinating in-depth documentary details the rise and fall of an American legend. 120mins. Halston will be released by The Orchard later this year.

**AMERICAN WOMAN**  
Wednesday, April 24 7:00pm  
Written by Brad Ingelsby and directed by Jake Scott, this stirring drama follows one woman’s efforts to navigate a nightmare of personal tragedy and a need for justice over the course of fifteen years. Hot-tempered Deb (Sienna Miller), the black sheep in her family, had her daughter Bridget (Sky Ferreira) at a young age, as did Bridget with her son Jesse. The three of them live a relatively happy life in a small Pennsylvania town until the night Bridget goes out with her ex-boyfriend -- Jesse’s father -- and never returns. Deb's mother (Amy Madigan) and sister (Christina Hendricks) search to no avail. Time passes and Deb moves on, raising Jesse on her own and building a life with Chris (Aaron Paul), but the unresolved disappearance of her daughter never ceases to haunt her family. Also starring Will Sasso. 111mins. American Woman will be released by Roadside Attractions on June 14th.

**THE WHITE CROW**  
Wednesday, April 24 7:00pm  
Writer David Hare (The Hours) and producer/director Ralph Fiennes (Hat, Caesar!, Spectre) present the incredible true story of Rudolf Nureyev (played by Ukrainian dancer Oleg Ivenko), the iconic dancer who transformed the world of ballet before defeciting from France to the Soviet Union. Hare and Feinnes tell the story of Nureyev’s amazing journey from poverty-stricken childhood in the USSR to his rise as a young dance prodigy in Leningrad, his notorious love affairs, his fateful arrival in Paris in the early 1960s, and the subsequent stand-off with the KGB that would forever change his life as well as the future of ballet. Beautifully filmed by Mike Eley and filled with stunning ballet scenes, Feinnes’ third film as director is an elegant fulfillment of a famous and fascinating story. 127mins. The White Crow will be released by Sony Pictures Classics on May 10th.

**THE CHAMBERMAID**  
Thursday, April 25 7:00pm  
Eve, a young maid, works long hours at a luxurious Mexico City hotel. The hard-working single mother dreams of a promotion and a better life. Set almost entirely within one of Mexico City’s five-star hotels, the disparity between demanding and affluent guests and low-level workers is stifling and wryly presented. Director Lila Avilés and co-written by Avilés and Juan Carlos Marquéz. The documentary starts on the Greek island of Hydra in 1960, where Leonard Cohen, then a struggling and unknown fiction writer, and Marianne Ihlen, a single mother with a young son, became part of a community of expat artists, writers and musicians. Never-before-seen footage shot by Broomfield and legendary documentarian D.A. Pennebaker makes for a unique portrait of an idyllic 1960s bohemia. It was a time that left a lasting imprint on both Marianne and Leonard, whose friendship would last another fifty years before their deaths in 2016. 97mins. Marianne & Leonard will be released by Roadside Attractions this summer.

**FAMILY**  
Thursday, April 25 7:00pm  
Kate Stone (Taylor Schilling) is a self-absorbed workaholic. She is not good with kids, and she is not good in most social situations. When her estranged brother Joe tracks her down to watch her first son's debut, Kate thinks babysitting for the week can't get any worse -- until Maddie runs away to become a 'Juggalo' (term for fans of the band Insane Clown Posse). Written and directed by Laura Steinel, Family is an endearing comedy featuring terrific performances by Schilling and Vale, as well as a great supporting cast including Kate McKinnon, Brian Tyree Henry, Jesse Ennis, Blair Beeken, Matt Walsh, Allison Tolman, Eric Edelstein, and Fabrizio Guido. 85mins. The film will be released by The Film Arcade on April 28th. In attendance: writer/director Laura Steinel and actress Bryn Vale.

**MARIANNE & LEONARD: WORDS OF LOVE**  
Thursday, April 25 7:00pm  
Marianne & Leonard: Words of Love is renowned filmmaker Nick Broomfield’s most personal and romantic film of his storied career. The documentary starts on the Greek island of Hydra in 1960, where Leonard Cohen, then a struggling and unknown fiction writer, and Marianne Ihlen, a single mother with a young son, became part of a community of expat artists, writers and musicians. Never-before-seen footage shot by Broomfield and legendary documentarian D.A. Pennebaker make for a unique portrait of an idyllic 1960s bohemia. It was a time that left a lasting imprint on both Marianne and Leonard, whose friendship would last another fifty years before their deaths in 2016. 97mins. Marianne & Leonard will be released by Roadside Attractions this summer.

**The Opening Night Reception 6:00pm**  
Ticket holders for Opening Night films are invited to join us for a reception featuring models in Halston Heritage fashions and sparkling wine in the theater lobby honoring our visiting filmmakers including Frédéric Tcheng and Lesley Frowick (Halston). Special thanks to our chic friends at Tootsies for sponsoring the Opening Night reception for visiting filmmakers and Sponsors of the Festival.

**Photos by:** (1 & 4) Barry Berenson Perkins; (2) Allan Tannenbaum; (3, 5, 6, 8) Dustin Pittman; (7) Estate of Charles Tracy.
USA FILM FESTIVAL 2019
FRIDAY, APRIL 26

LAST MOMENT OF CLARITY SALUTATE TO UDO KIER
Friday, April 26 7:00pm (A film clip compilation Tribute honoring Udo Kier will precede the feature film)

Haunted by fragmented memories of his murdered fiancée, New Yorker Sam Pivnic lives a meager existence in Paris, trying to forget. When he sees a movie starring an actress who looks just like his dead love, the now obsessed Sam travels to Los Angeles to find her. Linking up with an old high school friend (Kati), Sam is determined to solve the mystery of actress Lauren Clerk’s origin – but his determination turns to stalking. He’s convinced of her identity, but finding the real truth leads to unraveling the mystery of why his fiancée was murdered – endangering Sam, Kat and Lauren as they each face who they really are in this taut, engaging thriller. 94mins. In attendance: co-writers/directors Colin Krisel and James Krisel, actors Zach Avery and Udo Kier.

SHOWCASE SHORT FILMS
Friday, April 26 7:15pm
Join USAFF friend and program host Stephen Tobolowsky as we salute the filmmakers of five absurd and dark-hearted short films featuring characters whose choices have unexpected outcomes including Chris Roe and Traci Lords with CEMETARY TALES: A TALE OF TWO SISTERS; Denise Crosby with Paul Sanchez’s AT THE FENCE; Eli Powers with HOLY MOSES starring Amanda Seyfried and Thomas Sadoski; Foster Wilson and Josh Zuckerman with MADE PUBLIC; and Lisa McAdden with THE ILL-TIMED ENLIGHTENMENT OF JASON VOORHEES. Filmmakers in attendance.

The Festival welcomes Traci Lords as she screens two short films with us this year – A TALE OF TWO SISTERS, playing in the Showcase Shorts program as noted above, and we are pleased to screen SWEET PEA, her powerful earlier short work, in our Narrative I Shorts program (9:00pm) described below.

 NONFICTION SHORT FILMS
 Friday, April 26 7:00pm
This program of fascinating true stories includes Timothy Blackwood’s THE CONQUEROR, which follows Jerome Conquest – a maintenance worker by day and pro-boxer by night – who works towards redemption for himself and his struggling community; Alexis Opjica’s THE LAST HARVEST: YOU CAN’T GROW WITHOUT CHANGE examines the critical labor shortage in workers needed to harvest and supply the U.S. with fresh food; Johan Palmgren’s THE TRAFFIC SEPARATING DEVICE presents the disastrous-yet-comical outcome of Stockholm’s innovative device intended to keep passenger cars out of bus-designated lanes; Henry Roosevelt’s beautifully crafted SIXTH OF JUNE commemorates those whose sacrifice on D-Day changed the world; and Solla Andreu’s thought-provoking LIKE explores the relationship between social media and increasing anxiety levels in young people. 111mins. FREE admission program.

NARRATIVE II SHORT FILMS
Friday, April 26 9:30pm
Join us for a program of dramatic and comedic shorts. In Sean Fredricks’ CANNONBALL a Brentwood wife and superstitious hitman receive a lesson from the universe; in Helen O’Reilly’s charming FIRST DISCO a teenage girl copes with issues of self-confidence before her first disc; in Sherry Farnell’s HIT IT & QUIT IT a heartbroken young woman tries to have a conversation with her ex; in Jim Picariello’s PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE DADS two middle-age dads at the park with their kids teach a lesson to obnoxious teenagers driving too fast; in Cal Brunker’s THE PUPPET MASTER a joke goes across a mysterious ringling cellphone in the woods; in Kent Hagen-Takenaka’s ridiculous comedy RUDE BOYS the day does not go according to plan as one man’s slacker friend decides to spontaneously enter a triathlon; a Girl Scout Leader on a camping trip receives a warning from a Forest Ranger that she chooses to ignore; in Vanessa Newell’s BULL MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT; and in Ryan Francis Johnson’s WRITER’S WORKSHOP an aspiring writer attends a workshop hoping to receive constructive feedback. 92mins. FREE admission program.

STUDENT SHORT FILMS
Friday, April 26 9:15pm
Join us for a program of new U.S. and international student works including Gabrielle Fabro’s poolroom drama B; Sohlin Vaidya’s family drama DIFFICULT PEOPLE; Jake Ajamian’s touching SI ME FALTAS TÚ (IF I’M WITHOUT YOU); Summer Wagner’s empowering LITTLE LANTERN; Kayla Kummerli, Krista Kummerli, and Richard Ahn’s expressive PAJARO (by Hebron High School students); Elisa Tyson’s coming-of-age story ST BERNIE; Shange Zhang’s riveting THE FIVE MINUTES; and David Baehsford’s suspenseful VOIXGIRL. 118mins. FREE admission program.

NARRATIVE I SHORT FILMS
Friday, April 26 9:00pm
This line up of six harrowing short dramas all feature characters fighting against suppression – from a repressive society, the law, society and dysfunctional relationships. We present Cheryl Allison’s HIDING IN DAYLIGHT; Traci Lords’ SWEET PEA; Marta Carocci Vovcs’ TAITED LOVE; Ravi Shankar Kaushik’s CHUDEDIANI (MOUSETRAP); Juan Avella’s HER BODY; and Juan Redinger’s SNAKESMARKED. 103mins. Introduction by directors Traci Lords, Cheryl Allison and other filmmakers. FREE admission program.

Image from: Blood for Dracula: My Own Private Idaho, directed by Jim Mccarthy with Paul Sanchez’s AT THE FENCE; Eli Powers with HOLY MOSES.
HILL SCHOOL SHORT FILMS
Saturday, April 27 2:30pm
Once again we present a collection of class project short films from Garland High School International Baccalaureate (IB) film students in the Reel Owl Cinema program, which teaches students the art of filmmaking with an emphasis on narrative storytelling. FREE admission program.

NATHAN'S KINGDOM
Saturday, April 27 3:45pm
Nathan’s Kingdom is a coming-of-age drama about Nathan, a young autistic man, struggling with his opiate-addicted teen-age sister, Laura, as they risk their lives to find a kingdom that once existed only in their imaginations. To cope with the hardships of a broken home, Nathan spent his younger years playing with his self-appointed best friend, Laura. Together, they invented a fictitious safe haven called “The Kingdom” and promised each other it find one day. Ten years later, Nathan attempts to save the only family he has by avoiding social services and taking Laura on a mythical quest battling monsters, enduring epic wars, and confronting an underground civilization of ghouls in hopes of finding the Kingdom and the potential to transform their lives forever. 98mins. In attendance: actor Jacob Lince, actress Madison Ford, and writer/director Olicer Muñoz. April is Autism Awareness Month – We are pleased to welcome our friends in the Autism community to this special free screening. FREE admission program.

THE NAKED KISS (1964) SALUTE TO CONSTANCE TOWERS
Saturday, April 27 7:15pm
A neo-noir classic from groundbreaking writer/director Samuel Fuller, the filmmaker behind Shock Corridor (released the previous year), The Naked Kiss still has the power to thrill. A traumatized former prostitute (Constance Towers) relocates to the discreet suburb of Grantville in an attempt to rebuild her life. She doesn’t realize that, in true melodrama fashion, dark secrets and twisted desires lurk beneath the town’s wholesome facade until she’s in too deep. Her brief idyll as a nurse in a children’s hospital and engagement to the town’s wealthy namestake are shattered by a shocking discovery and subsequent act of violence. A bold experimental work boasting dazzling visual flourishes and gorgeous black-and-white cinematography by Stanley Cortez (The Magnificent Ambersons, The Night of the Hunter), The Naked Kiss was decades ahead of its time. 90mins. In attendance: actress Constance Towers.

It is one of the most iconic images in American cinema: bald, beautiful Constance Towers delivering a beat-down to the pimp who planned to cheat her. It’s the shocking start to Samuel Fuller’s The Naked Kiss, a film that has plenty more shocks to deliver before it is through. But no matter how fascinatingly the film takes us into small-town America’s heart of darkness, it is Towers’ humanity and empathy that guides us through this world and unsettling tale. Towers herself has enjoyed her own fascinating and circuitous path as an American film, theater and TV legend. Born in Whitefish, Montana – “I often thought of dreaming up another town that wouldn’t sound so comic, my birthplace, and I’ve decided to stick by it.” Towers once told a columnist – she began working as a child, performing in radio plays in the Pacific Northwest before heading for New York City to study at Juilliard. After making her screen debut in Blake Edwards’ first film, Bring Your Smile Along (in 1955), she caught the eye of John Ford, who cast her in The Horse Soldiers and Sergeant Rutledge just before Fuller made her the star of cult classics The Naked Kiss and Shock Corridor. On stage, she delighted audiences in such legendary musicals as “Show Boat” (playing Julie in the 1966 Lincoln Center production) and “The King and I” (opposite Yul Brynner in a successful revival that toured and ran on Broadway; Towers performs on the acclaimed 1977 cast album). Her busy career continued even as offstage responsibilities beckoned; married to actor John Gavin from 1974 until his passing last year, Towers found herself a diplomat’s wife when Gavin served as ambassador to Mexico from 1981-1986. Despite her other obligations, she remained busy during that time with theater and television projects, and since has been a frequent presence on big and small screens, playing Gwyneth Paltrow’s mother in In a Perfect Murder, enjoying a two-decade stint as legendary soap villainess Helena Cassindine on “General Hospital,” and even turning up as the music teacher who once deflowered a young Frasier Crane in “Frasier.” Still active in the seventh decade of her career (most recently appearing in 2018’s The Storyteller), Constance Towers continues to expand her fascinatingly varied body of work.

ED ASNER: ON STAGE AND OFF SALUTE TO ED ASNER
Saturday, April 27 7:00pm
One of the most honored performers in American television history (whose awards include seven Emmys and five Golden Globes), Ed Asner is also an intrepid speaker for progressive American ideals and the bane of right-wing media. Produced, written, and directed by Kurt Jacobsen and Warren Leming, this full-length documentary explores the various facets of Asner’s fascinating life: his Kansas City roots, his early struggles, his inspirations and influences, his political activism, and his legendary career on screen and stage. Asner is brutally honest – much like his beloved screen counterpart, Lou Grant – as he reflects on his life in extensive interviews. Also featured are Michael Shannon, Oliver Stone, Mike Farrell, David Shepherd, Paul Buhle, Janet Coleman, Derek Malcolm, Liza Asner and others. 87mins. In attendance: Ed Asner and writer/director/producer Kurt Jacobsen.

Whether you know him as Lou Grant, Santa Claus, Carl Fredricksen, Pope John XXIII or any of the other dozens of roles he has so memorably brought to life in film, stage and on television, you know Ed Asner, the magnetic and captivating subject of the new documentary Ed Asner: On Stage and Off. Beginning his stage career in the 1950s following his military service (in Chicago, where he also drove a cab and sold shoes to make ends meet), he made his Broadway debut opposite Julie Andrews and Carol Channing in Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick’s “Fiddler on the Roof.” Asner went on to win two Tony Awards (“The Odd Couple,” “Godspell”), four Emmys (“The Mary Tyler Moore Show,” “The Kids From C.I.D.,” “The Golden Girls,” “ER”), and a Screen Actors Guild Award (“The King of Queens”). He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Asner’s activism has always been an integral part of his career. Whether speaking on behalf of the Screen Actors Guild or in support of the homeless, the underprivileged and the underrepresented, Asner has used his platform to keep the issues of the day in the public eye. It is fitting that Asner’s first documenetary opens tomorrow, the 90th anniversary of his birth. FREE admission program.

SURVIVING BOKATOR
Saturday, April 27 2:45pm
Filmed over the course of five years, this inspiring documentary by writer/director Mark Bokhael details the story of San Kim Sean, a survivor of Pol Pot’s reign of terror in Cambodia during 1975-79, and his quest to resurrect his nation’s nearly lost martial art form, Bokator. As one of the last surviving Bokator grand masters, Sean struggles with limited resources, ideological differences, and a widening generation gap to bring a disappearing aspect of Cambodian culture to the world stage before it is too late. He eventually clashes with his own students, illustrating the growing divide between the future-focused youth of Cambodia and the survivors of the Killing Fields and their intense desire to maintain the traditions they almost lost. FREE admission program.

BOLDEN
Saturday, April 27 3:00pm
Directed by Dan Pritzker, Bolden imagines the compelling, powerful, and tragic journey of Buddy Bolden (Gary Carr), the unsung inventor of jazz – about whom little is known. Scant biographical information is to be found and no known recordings of his music exist. The film is told through Buddy’s fragmented memories set against the social turbulence in New Orleans in the early 1900s, from which his revolutionary music rose and forever changed the face of popular music. Bolden features an original score written, arranged, and performed by Wynton Marsalis, and also stars Erik LaRay Harvey, Yaya DaCosta, Ian McShane, and Michael Rooker. 108mins. The film will be released by Abramorama on May 3rd. Co-presented by D’JAM (Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month) and the Sammons Center for the Arts.

In attendance: producer Jon Cornick. FREE admission program.

Whether you know him as Lou Grant, Santa Claus, Carl Fredricksen, Pope John XXIII or any of the other dozens of roles he has so memorably brought to life in film, stage and on television, you know Ed Asner, the magnetic and captivating subject of the new documentary Ed Asner: On Stage and Off. Beginning his stage career in the 1950s following his military service (in Chicago, where he also drove a cab and sold shoes to make ends meet), he made his Broadway debut opposite Julie Andrews and Carol Channing in Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick’s “Fiddler on the Roof.” Asner went on to win two Tony Awards (“The Odd Couple,” “Godspell”), four Emmys (“The Mary Tyler Moore Show,” “The Kids From C.I.D.,” “The Golden Girls,” “ER”), and a Screen Actors Guild Award (“The King of Queens”). Asner’s activism has always been an integral part of his career. Whether speaking on behalf of the Screen Actors Guild or in support of the homeless, the underprivileged and the underrepresented, Asner has used his platform to keep the issues of the day in the public eye. It is fitting that Asner’s first documenetary opens tomorrow, the 90th anniversary of his birth. FREE admission program.

Whether you know him as Lou Grant, Santa Claus, Carl Fredricksen, Pope John XXIII or any of the other dozens of roles he has so memorably brought to life in film, stage and on television, you know Ed Asner, the magnetic and captivating subject of the new documentary Ed Asner: On Stage and Off. Beginning his stage career in the 1950s following his military service (in Chicago, where he also drove a cab and sold shoes to make ends meet), he made his Broadway debut opposite Julie Andrews and Carol Channing in Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick’s “Fiddler on the Roof.” Asner went on to win two Tony Awards (“The Odd Couple,” “Godspell”), four Emmys (“The Mary Tyler Moore Show,” “The Kids From C.I.D.,” “The Golden Girls,” “ER”), and a Screen Actors Guild Award (“The King of Queens”). Asner’s activism has always been an integral part of his career. Whether speaking on behalf of the Screen Actors Guild or in support of the homeless, the underprivileged and the underrepresented, Asner has used his platform to keep the issues of the day in the public eye. It is fitting that Asner’s first documenetary opens tomorrow, the 90th anniversary of his birth. FREE admission program.
USA FILM FESTIVAL 2019
SATURDAY, APRIL 27

GUEST ARTIST SALUTE TO TIMOTHY BUSFIELD
Saturday, April 27 7:30pm  (A film clip compilation Tribute honoring Timothy Busfield will precede the feature film.) Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Joseph Harris (Jeff Daniels), has not written a play in twenty years. Unable to unleash his voice in a way that he sees fit, Harris finds himself trapped in a no man's land of artistic discordant with his only hope in the bottom of a glass. When he is commissioned to write a play for a small-town theatre company, in a place he would rather not be in, Harris unwillingly emerges from his self-imposed exile. Upon Harris’ arrival at the local train station, he is met by an eager to please apprentice, Kenneth Waters (Thomas Macias). Not in the habit of being chaperoned, Harris demands to be booked on the next train back to New York. As Kenneth desperately tries to keep his gin-swagging hero from leaving, the two strike a deal that leads them to explore the tangled relationship between the dreams of youth and the wisdom of age. Guest Artist is written by Jeff Daniels, directed by Timothy Busfield and is the first independent feature co-produced by Daniels, Busfield and Melissa Gilbert under their Grand River Productions banner. 74mins. In attendance: director/producer Timothy Busfield and producer Melissa Gilbert.

A versatile performer on stage, in film and television – Revenge of the Nerds and “thirtysomething” were but three years apart – Timothy Busfield’s impressive résumé also includes his noted work as a producer and prolific director. With over 140 episodes of TV to his credit (including such critical and audience favorites as “This tis Us,” “The Fosters,” “Damages” and “Designated Survivor,” to name just a few), Busfield now makes his debut as a director of theatrical features with the acclaimed Guest Artist, starring and written by Jeff Daniels and produced by Grand River Productions, a creative entity launched by Busfield, Daniels and Melissa Gilbert. (Busfield and Gilbert have also been married since 2013.) A native of Lansing, Michigan, Busfield devoted much of his young life to baseball. But after dislocating his shoulder while playing for East Tennessee State University, the young athlete made his way over to the Theatre Department. Busfield made his screen debut in 1981’s Stripes (which filmed in Louisville, where he was a member of the city’s famed Actors Theatre) but continued to work on the stage, understudying for Matthew Broderick in 1983’s Brighton Beach Memoirs and later starring in the 1990 Broadway cast of Aaron Sorkin’s “A Few Good Men.” He would later work with Sorkin on “The West Wing” (as an actor), “Sports Night” (as a director), and “Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip” (as both director and actor). As Busfield continued to rack up credits on both sides of the camera, he and his brother founded B Street Theatre and Fantasy Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., to encourage, respectively, new stage works and young up-and-coming theater artists. (And, in addition to appearing in the sports-movie classics Field of Dreams and Little Big League, he also found time to play some semi-pro baseball and even coach the occasional Little League team.) Grand River Productions fields up an already-busy dance card for Busfield, who’s currently directing episodes of “Law & Order: SVU” and “Dolly Parton’s Heartstrings” when not acting in some of TV’s most popular comedies and dramas.

The phrase “former child star” generally sends chills down the spines of any observer of show business, but Melissa Gilbert has proven that early fame needn’t stand in the way of a successful adulthood layered with a richness of opportunity. Launching her career at the age of 2 with commercials and guest spots, Gilbert became a TV icon with her ten-year run on “Little House on the Prairie,” playing famed author Laura Ingalls Wilder as a young girl. Even during that show’s heyday, Gilbert enjoyed diverse opportunities for expression, making her stage debut as Helen Keller in “The Miracle Worker” (and reprising the role for a made-for-TV movie, opposite Patty Duke) and playing iconic teen roles in the remakes of Splendor in the Grass and The Diary of Anne Frank. In the decades to follow, she starred in countless films and series for television, finding time to write three books, make her directorial debut, and serve as president of the Screen Actors Guild. (She contemplated running for Congress, even winning Michigan’s Democratic primary before health concerns compelled her to drop out of the race.) Honored on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Western Performers Hall of Fame — not to mention a fifth-place showing on “Dancing with the Stars” — Gilbert has most recently won acclaim for her performance in Geraldine Aron’s one-woman show “My Brilliant Divorce” off-Broadway. With Timothy Busfield (her husband since 2013) and Jeff Daniels, Gilbert is a co-founder of Grand River Productions. The company's first project, Guest Artist, is currently enjoying a successful film-festival run. “Working with Jeff and Tim has been one of the great joys of my career,” says Gilbert. “Guest Artist holds a special place in my heart — from Jeff’s beautiful adaptation of his play and his fantastically nuanced performance to Tim’s extraordinary ability as a director-producer. It’s been a thrill to be a part of this production and to partner in Grand River.”

FREE admission program.

ANIMATED SHORT FILMS
Saturday, April 27 9:30pm
Journey to fascinating animated worlds with a man who swears his next date will be “the one” in Scott Farrell’s BRISTLED; a Taoist and ancient Chinese emperor who seeks the magic pill for staying youthful and having longevity in life in Jinghan Zhang’s ELIXIR; a writer struggling to complete his masterpiece — who holds a special place in my heart — from Jeff’s beautiful adaptation of his play and his fantastically nuanced performance to Tim’s extraordinary ability as a director-producer. It’s been a thrill to be a part of this production and to partner in Grand River. — from Jeff’s beautiful adaptation of his play and his fantastically nuanced performance to Tim’s extraordinary ability as a director-producer. It’s been a thrill to be a part of this production and to partner in Grand River.

FREE admission program.

NARRATIVE III SHORT FILMS
Saturday, April 27 9:30pm
This collection of dark dramatic shorts includes a shopping mall Santa Claus who re-evaluates quitting his job after receiving a call from a hospital’s children’s intensive care unit in Christian Werner’s DER BESUCH (THE VISIT); a remorseful man who relives an intense childhood memory in Helen Cho Arthurs’ I’D NEVER BOTHER ANOTHER CHICKEN AGAIN; two young factory workers who discuss their harsh lives in Maxwell P. Price and Greg Polski’s student film MATES; an everyday conversational detach between the mother and son that turns into a desperate, against-the-clock situation in Rodrigo Orona’s MOTHER; a young woman who in the midst of a breathing problem finds a long-lost close friend living in the same helpless state in Ying Xu’s PYGMALION; and a young photographer who unintentionally draws into an unholy love triangle whilst looking for the answers about the death of her father in Tala Nahas’ VEILED. 94mins. FREE admission program.

Images from: The Miracle Worker, Splendor in the Grass, Little House on the Prairie, Sylvester, Secrets and Lies - Photo by Brownie Harris & ABC, Family of Strangers, The Diary of Anne Frank, The Paper Chase, Field of Dreams, Little Big League, Revenge of the Nerds, thirtysomething, Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip - Image via NBC, Trapper John, M.D.

Images from: The Paper Chase, Field of Dreams, Little Big League, Revenge of the Nerds, thirtysomething, Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip, The West Wing - Image via NBC, Trapper John, M.D.

FREE admission program.
USA FILM FESTIVAL 2019
SUNDAY, APRIL 28

ALL RISE FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHILDREN
Sunday, April 28 2:30pm

Written, directed, and produced by Olive Talley, All Rise provides a rare and inspiring look inside the courtroom of family court judge Carole Clark, the pioneer behind an innovative and unconventional approach to healing and reuniting families embroiled in the child welfare system in Tyler, Texas. Initially derided by critics, her trauma-informed, trust-based program is part reform and part intervention. Talley follows two families through Judge Clark’s court as she and her team of attorneys, mental health experts, and child advocates provide them with the hope and agency support they need to reconstruct their lives. 74mins. In attendance: writer/director Olive Talley, film subjects Judge Clark and Texas families profiled in the film.

TRIAL BY FIRE
Sunday, April 28 6:30pm

Produced and directed by Edward Zwick and written by Geoffrey Fletcher (Precious), Trial by Fire is the true-life Texas story of the unlikely bond between an imprisoned death row inmate (Jack O’Connell) and a mother of two from Houston (Laura Dern) who, though facing staggering odds, fights mightily for his freedom. Cameron Todd Willingham, a poor, uneducated heavy metal devotee with a violent streak and a criminal record, is convicted of arson-related triple homicide in Corsicana in 1992. During his 12 years on death row, Elizabeth Gilbert, an improbable ally, uncovers questionable methods and illogical conclusions in his case, and questions whether the state has the state to expose suppressed evidence that could save him. 127mins. Trial by Fire will be released by Roadside Attractions on May 17th. In attendance: Edward Zwick.

ACCIDENTAL CLIMBER
Sunday, April 28 3:00pm

Steven Ortt’s Accidental Climber follows the inspiring true story of Jim Geiger, a retired forest ranger and amateur mountaineer from Sacramento, CA who — at 88-years-old — attempts to become the oldest American and first great grandfather to summit Mt. Everest. The film follows Jim as he embarks on a journey to transform from a weekend hiker to attempting one of the most extreme and physically demanding feats known to man. Driven by a desire to prove that age is just a number, Jim pushes his body to the limits in a quest to summit the world’s tallest mountain. While acclimating and readying for his climb, however, the worst disaster in mountaineering history takes place, leaving sixteen climbers dead in a tragic avalanche and forever changing Jim’s life. 67mins. FREE admission program.

This program is presented as part of the Festival’s “Engage at Any Age” program. We also kick-off Older American’s Month in May. Special thanks to Carol and Alan Bemson for providing funding for the Festival’s free admission programs for Seniors.

SHATTER THE SILENCE
Sunday, April 28 7:30pm

Director Cheryl Allisson explores the #MeToo movement in terms of its effects here in North Texas via interviews with Texas Senator and women’s rights activist Wendy Davis, and Dallas-area ministers, teachers, students, social workers, artists, and others who bravely share their experiences with patriarchy, sexual harassment in the church, rape culture, community action, and the initiatives taking place to help bring forth change. Shatter the Silence is an inspiring look into grassroots reform happening in our own backyard. 56mins. In attendance: director/producer Cheryl Allisson, producer Natalie Murray, Texas State Rep. Victoria Neave, and former Texas State Senator Wendy Davis.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MARRIAGE
Sunday, April 28 4:00pm

Documentarian Roger Nygard (The Nature of Existence, Trekkies) tackles one of the toughest existential questions that has dogged humankind for millennia: Why is marriage so difficult? Once a vital and near-universal social contract, the concept of marriage has morphed along with a rapidly changing society yet has also steadily declined with fewer people getting married and more marriages ending in divorce. Nygard interviews a broad array of experts – psychologists, marriage counselors, historians, and even biologists – and tracks three couples over a period of years to monitor their progress. The result is a tongue-in-cheek yet insightful peek into what it takes to find and maintain happiness, romance, and true love. 80mins. In attendance: director/producer Roger Nygard. (We welcome our guests from 3 Stars Jewish Cinema to this special program.) FREE admission program.

USA FILM JURORS 2019

Our program mission: Equity for all. Equality for the best. USA Film Festival 2019 was juried by the top picks in Narrative/Fiction, Non-Fiction, Animation and Experimental categories as well as student achievement and more.

2019 National Jurors
Christina Beck, Paul Marcarelli, Roger Nygard, Rosson Crow, Bill Haller and Dale Dickey.

Join our National Jurors for announcements and screenings of presentations of this year’s winning films. Awards are given to the top picks in Narrative/Fiction, Non-Fiction, Animation and Experimental categories as well as student achievement and more.

USAFF prize winners who were recognized early in their careers include Alexander Payne, Todd Haynes, Wes Anderson, Bill Plympton, Michael Almereyda, John Lasseter and many others. FREE admission program.

SHORT FILM AWARDS PROGRAM
41st Annual International Short Film Competition
Sunday, April 28 6:00pm

For his work on the television movie Special Bulletin (as director, producer and co-writer), Zwick received two Emmy Awards. It also marked the beginning of his collaboration with Marshall Herskovitz, with whom he then created the Emmy Award winning television series, “thirtysomething.” Together Herskovitz and Zwick created The Bedford Falls Company as their home for film and television projects, including the critically acclaimed television series “My So-Called Life,” “Relativity,” and the Emmy Award and Golden Globe Award winning series “Once and Again.” Currently, Herskovitz and Zwick are Executive Producers on the series “Nashville.”

Born in Winnetka, Illinois, Edward Zwick began directing and acting in high school and trained as an apprentice at the Academy Festival in Lake Forest. While studying literature at Harvard, he continued writing and directing for the theatre. Upon graduation, he was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship to study in Europe with some of the major innovatory theatre companies.

Zwick was accepted as a Directing Fellow at the American Film Institute in 1975. Timothy and the Angel, Zwick’s first short film, won first place in the student film competition at the 1976 Chicago Film Festival and caught the attention of the producers of the television series, “Family.” He served as story editor on “Family” and subsequently became a producer of the series “Nashville.”

Zwick began his feature film career directing About Last Night. He went on to direct the Academy Award winning films Glory and Legends of the Fall. Zwick also directed the films Courage Under Fire, The Siege, The Last Samurai, Blood Diamond, Defiance, Love & Other Drugs and Pawn Sacrifice. Zwick and Herskovitz also produced the Academy Award nominated film I Am Sam, as well as Traffic – winner of two Golden Globe Awards and four Academy Award – directed by Steven Soderbergh. Zwick most recently directed Jack Reacher: Never Go Back starring Tom Cruise. Zwick has been honored with three Emmy Awards, the Humanitas Prize, the Writer’s Guild of America Award, two Peabody Awards, a Director’s Guild of America Award, and the Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Award from the American Film Institute.

He received an Academy Award as a producer of 1999’s Best Picture Shakespeare in Love.
USA Film Festival 2019

Special Guests

Foster Hirsch is Professor of Film at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York and the author of sixteen books on film and theatre. He is the author of the New York Times Side of the Screen: "Film Noir: You, Be King," and "A Method to their Madness: The History of the Actors Studio." He is a frequent host/moderator at many venues including the Players Club, the Harvard Club, the Film Forum, the American Cinematheque, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He has lectured on film in India, China, Dubai, Israel, France, Germany, England and New Zealand. He is now at work on history in Hollywood in the 1950s, to be published by Alfred Knopf.

Alonso Durable is Film Reviews Editor for Thetrip and Senior Programmer at Outfest. He has previously written film for Moviedone, Salon and MSNBC.com, among many other outlets. He also co-hosts the Lindsey Sperry podcast and regularly appears on "What the Flick!?" (The Young Turks Network). Durade is a pre-screener for the Sundance Film Festival, as well as a consultant for the USA Film Festival/Dallas, where he has served five years as artistic director. A former arts and entertainment editor at The Advocate, he was a regular contributor to "The Rotten Tomatoes Show" on Current. He is the author of two books - "Have Yourself a Movie Little Christmas" (Limelight Editions) and "111 Must-See Movies for Gay Men" (Advocate Books) - and an adjunct faculty member at Chapman University.

Dedication

The great talent Tab Hunter honored us with a visit in 2015 and of course, everybody was in love with him! We first met director Danny Leiner when he brought his first film to USAFF in 1992. The lovely Julie Adams favored us with a visit in 2014 for a 60th Anniversary screening of the influential creature From the Black Lagoon. We greatly admired the one and only Penny Marshall and had the chance to honor her in 2000. We also remember Dallas doyenne Caroline Rose Hunt, whose friendship, patronage and support we enjoyed throughout her lifetime. We dedicate this year's program to these wonderful friends and filmmakers.
### SCHEDULE & TICKET INFO.

#### ANGELIKA FILM CENTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 24</td>
<td>APRIL 25</td>
<td>APRIL 26</td>
<td>APRIL 27</td>
<td>APRIL 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halston</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Last Moment of</td>
<td>High School Shorts</td>
<td>All Rise for the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Woman</td>
<td>The Chambermaid</td>
<td>Clarity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White Crow</td>
<td></td>
<td>Salute to Udo Kier</td>
<td>Survival Sokator</td>
<td>Good of the Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Short Films</td>
<td>Narrative I Short Films</td>
<td>Guest Artist: Salute to Timothy Busfield</td>
<td>Short Film Awards</td>
<td>Accidental Climber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>9:15pm</td>
<td>7:15pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative II Short Films</td>
<td>The Naked Kiss Salute to Constance Towers</td>
<td>Ed Asner: On Stage and Off</td>
<td>Trial by Fire</td>
<td>The Truth About Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30pm</td>
<td>9:30pm</td>
<td>7:15pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animated Short Films</td>
<td>Narrative III Short Films</td>
<td>The naked kiss Salute to Constance Towers</td>
<td>Short Film Awards</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>7:15pm</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Short Films</td>
<td>Narrative III Short Films</td>
<td>The Naked Kiss Salute to Constance Towers</td>
<td>Shatter the Slience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>9:30pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative I Short Films</td>
<td>Narrative II Short Films</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>9:30pm</td>
<td>9:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Short Films</td>
<td>Narrative II Short Films</td>
<td>Student Short Films</td>
<td>Animated Short Films</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### BOX OFFICE HOURS

Box Office opens at 5:00pm Wednesday
Box Office opens at 6:00pm Thursday-Friday
Box Office opens at 1:30pm on Sat & Sun

---

### OFFICIAL SPONSORS

- **Office of Cultural Affairs**
  - City of Dallas
  - Carol and Alan J. Bernon
  - Family Charitable Foundation
  - Mary Fox and Laura Fox

- **DALLAS**
  - Texas Commission on the Arts

- **CASH STORE**
  - Moody Fund for the Arts

- **SIDLEY**
  - GAEDIKE GROUP

- **Downtown Business News**
  - Jackson Walker

- **yelp**
  - DALLAS Creative Industries

- **BOISSET**
  - Tootsies

- **DOWNTOWN BUSINESS NEWS**
  - Texas Film Festival News
  - Ticketmaster

- **SAG·AFTRA**
  - Texas Film Festival News

---

### Ticket Info - On Sale April 10th!

- **ADVANCE TICKETS** - only until April 22nd!
  - Available exclusively through Ticketmaster – On sale April 10th!

  - **ticketmaster**

  - ADVANCE TICKETS must be ordered online via Ticketmaster and will be held at the Festival’s “Will Call” desk at the theater for pick up on DAY OF SHOW.

  - **TICKETS ONLINE** (service fees apply)

    - Log on to www.ticketmaster.com/usaff

    - Event Name: “USA Film Festival”. Tickets are sold by individual program title (as listed at left in grid).

  - **TICKETS AT THE THEATER BOX OFFICE**

    - **(Day of show only)**

    - Tickets will be available at the Angelika Film Center upstairs sales desk, for day of show only (pending availability).

    - **SEE BOX OFFICE HOURS NOTED IN GRID.**

  - **SELL-OUTS** – Order in advance to avoid sell-outs! After April 22nd tickets are only available at the Festival box office for DAY OF SHOW ONLY.

    - Advance tickets for all shows are available exclusively through Ticketmaster. **Advance tickets are only available until April 22nd.** After this date, tickets will be available at the theater box office, day of show only. **SEE BOX OFFICE HOURS NOTED IN GRID.**

    - After April 22nd – Please check with the Festival’s UPSTAIRS SALES DESK during Box Office hours (see left), to inquire about ticket availability. **Please inquire in person. Do not call the theater to request this information** – The person answering the theater telephone is located in a different area and cannot tell you how many Festival tickets may be available for any particular program.

### TICKET PRICES

- **ALL PROGRAMS**
  - $10.00 per ticket
  - Purchase in advance via Ticketmaster or day of show only (pending availability) at the door.

- Some programs are **FREE admission** - See individual film listings. These tickets can be requested at the theater box office - day of show only. **Tickets for Free programs are not available in advance** – See info left.

### THEATER LOCATION

- **Angelika Film Center / Dallas**
  - 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane at Central Expressway (NE Corner)

- **Parking** is available in the garage located in the North end of the complex, adjacent to the theater

### FESTIVAL INFORMATION

- **Schedule is subject to change.** (It’s a Festival!) Guests and titles listed are confirmed at press time. Additional guests and changes anticipated.

- **Program times listed** are for actual film running times and do not include discussions with Festival guests in attendance.

- **Seating for all screenings** is general admission to the public.

- **Membership has its privileges:**

  - **Sponsor level** Members of the Festival may reserve seats (AFTER purchasing tickets via Ticketmaster) for most shows by calling the Festival office.

  - **Patron Members** can call and reserve their **FREE show tickets and reserved seats** through the Festival office at 214-821-6300.

  - **To become a Member of the Festival and receive FREE screenings every month**, send us an email request for a membership brochure at usafilmfest@aol.com

#### USA FILM FESTIVAL

- 214-821-FILM  www.usafilmfestival.com