



For Immediate Release

Filmfest DC Returns for 37th year!

(March 30, 2023) - WASHINGTON, DC – From April 19 through April 30, [Filmfest DC](#) returns for its 37th year with a vast array of new and exciting films. As usual, the festival spans across a variety of categories, including **World View** (international films), **Global Rhythms** (music), **Justice Matters** (social justice), **Trust No One** (thrillers), **The Lighter Side** (comedy), **Shorts** and more. Filmfest DC boasts 65 films from 30 countries for 12 action-packed days! In addition, this year Filmfest DC has dramatically increased their community engagement efforts through programming that is even more accessible to all Washingtonians.

Opening night kicks off on April 19th at the Embassy of France (4101 Reservoir Rd, NW) with the DC premiere of **Chevalier**, a film about Joseph Bologne, the illegitimate son of an African slave and a French plantation owner who rose to improbable heights in French society. A reception will precede the opening night film.

Closing night of the festival will take place on April 30th at Landmark's E Street Cinema with the DC premiere of **BlackBerry**. The film stars **Jay Baruchel** (*Freaks & Geeks*) alongside **Glenn Howerton** (*It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*) and is a humorous look at the rise and fall of the tech company that made the namesake phone. Directly after the screening, a festival wrap-up party will be held at nearby Penn Social (801 E Street, NW).

Since 2020 the **Arabian Sights Film Festival** has been presented in conjunction with Filmfest DC. Included among the features this year are the U.S. premiere of **The Island of Forgiveness**, the North American premiere of **The (In)famous Youssef Salem**, and the comedy **Mediterranean Fever**, winner of a best screenplay award at the Cannes Film Festival.

In an effort to expand film opportunities for everyone throughout the city, Filmfest DC will also host several films and programs all around the nation's capital. There will be outdoor screenings at The Wharf. Filmfest DC will also take DC high school students to a special screening at the Embassy of France. And, for the first time ever, all those under 25 years of age will receive a discount ticket of \$5 per show for any non-sold out screening. There will also be a special accessibility screening for the hard-of-hearing and deaf community.

Filmfest DC will be partnering with several other organizations. **Politics and Prose Bookstore** will be developing a book list based on films and have an in-store table with those selections. Local TV station WETA will host “Filmfest DC on TV, showing festival trailers throughout the month of April as well as a collection of Filmfest DC shorts. In addition, the Howard University PBS station WHUT will show a series of films presented from past editions of Filmfest DC.

“Coming out of COVID, it was important for us to make sure we were not only putting on a great festival, but also serving the needs of our community and making film more accessible to everyone throughout the city, to show our relevance beyond the movie theater walls,” says Filmfest DC Director, Tony Gittens. “We truly think there’s something for everyone this year and it’s a great excuse to get off the couch and see what our great city has to offer.”

Guest directors will be present throughout the festival. For more information and to see the growing list of films, please visit: <http://www.filmfestdc.org>

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Filmfest DC seeks to keep pace with global culture and social activities, taking a special focus on issues of the moment in hopes of increasing clarity and civil discourse. Filmfest DC is made possible by the support of our Board of Directors, sponsors, staff, and hundreds of volunteers. Filmfest DC aims to make our lives more connected and meaningful and believes good movies make the world a better place. www.filmfestdc.org