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**Vashon Film Institute (VFI) Announces Second Annual
VASHON ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL (VIFF), August 10-13, 2023**

“PUTTING THE INDEPENDENT BACK IN FILM FESTIVAL,” VIFF REPRISSES PROGRAM
OF TEN NEW FEATURE FILMS, TEN SHORTS, EVENTS, MUSIC AND AWARDS AT
ISLAND’S ICONIC [VASHON THEATRE](#)

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TICKETING OPTIONS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)
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Vashon Island, WA (February 23, 2022)—The Vashon Film Institute (VFI), the recently formed non-profit organization dedicated to fostering independent filmmaking in the Pacific Northwest, has announced August 10-13, 2023, as the dates for its second annual Vashon Island Film Festival (VIFF). As it did in 2022, VIFF 2023 (VIFF23) will screen ten features and ten shorts that are Northwest premieres or have recently distinguished themselves on the festival circuit. VIFF23 will also present a nightly selection of other film, music, and culinary-centric events for patrons to experience, including a Filmmakers’ Dinner, Friday Night Gala, Saturday Night Soiree, and the Red Bicycle Awards, which will feature notable film industry guests.

Founded by veteran independent film producer and island resident Mark Mathias Sayre, “VIFF23 builds upon the strong foundation we laid last year,” he says. “Our focus now is on honing and refining what made our inaugural festival successful: premium programming, a laid-back vibe, and a good time. The backbone, of course, is our beautiful island and the local community’s dedicated support of the arts.”

VFI devoted last year’s net profits from VIFF to the family-operated [Vashon Theatre](#), a cultural landmark built in 1947, and plans to do the same for VIFF23. “The community has always answered the call of its only motion picture house,” says Sayre. “Whether the theatre needed new seating or an upgrade to its projection system, magnanimous donations made it possible. And I’d like to think that VIFF is a way to thank the community for their support while continuing to harness it.”

The Vashon Theatre’s latest exterior renovation features a spectacular, world-class outdoor space for both film screenings and live musical performances, an amenity known as the Backlot at the Vashon Theatre. “We plan to take full advantage of the Backlot,” says Sayre. “It will host both the Saturday Night Soiree and the Red Bicycle Awards, and food and drink will be available there during each day.”

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VIFF will screen a selection of esteemed features—narratives and documentaries—and shorts, all curated by Sayre and the VFI programming team. “A curated program that features notable and award-winning films from the year’s preceding festival circuit helps ensure both quality and variety,” adds Sayre. “And will make for a competitive program you won’t want to miss.”

Last year’s top jury prizes—the Quartermaster Award (Best Feature) and the Burton Award (Best Short)—went to James Morosini’s I LOVE MY DAD and Ukrainian Mathieu Grimard’s GOODBYE GOLOVIN, respectively; I LOVE MY DAD also saw Morosini take home Best Screenplay and Patton Oswalt receive Best Actor; Nick Richey was awarded Best Director for 1-800-HOT-NITE, which went on to open the 2022 Deauville American Film Festival in France; TRAVELING LIGHT’s Stephen Dorff was recognized as Best Supporting Actor; Best Cinematography and Best Editing went to Warren Pereira for his work on TIGER 24: THE MAKING OF A MAN-EATER; Best Original Music went to JUNIPER composer Layne; and Brett Smith’s FREEDOM’S PATH won awards for Best Production Design (Mitchell Crisp) and Best Costume Design (Jane Anderson), and received the Audience Award in the feature film category (Smith’s NEVER LAND also received the Audience Award in the short film category).

All screenings will take place in person.

Ticketing is now open to the public, with three discounted ticketing tiers available for early-bird purchase: a three-film package (10% off), a six-film package (15% off), and a ten-film package (20% off). Single screening tickets will be made available for purchase in July 2023 at regular price, subject to availability.

In conclusion, Sayre says, “The next couple of years are about growth and discovery for VIFF. We’ll continue to nourish our independent roots and champion the spirit of the island, while also looking to share it with as many people as possible. Once we’ve established a significant foothold on the festival circuit, we will begin exploring the expansion of VFI’s operations to other programs that can support filmmaking in the Pacific Northwest, such as our plans for a filmmaking summer intensive for local youth.”

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The Local Legend of the Red Bicycle in a Tree

You may hear of a local boy, circa 1914, who abandoned his beloved red bicycle in a tree, before enlisting in the army to fight in World War I, where it was consumed by nature. Although it is a compelling tale, it is as tall as the tree that is its subject. According to journalistic coverage, the real history of this attraction is this: former islander Don Puz was gifted the bicycle after his family’s home had been lost to a fire, but the thick tires and thin handlebars made it difficult to ride. Don left the bicycle in the forest after a day of play, where it has remains to this day and has become synonymous with Vashon Island.

About Vashon Island Film Institute

Founded by veteran independent film producer Mark Mathias Sayre, the Vashon Film Institute is dedicated to fostering independent filmmaking in the Pacific Northwest, including the Vashon Island Film Festival. Its Board of Directors presently includes three individuals with island roots: Maura Little, Isaac Mann, and Peter Serko.

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