

 Associated Bank PRESENTS

the 2023 MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL

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THE 2023 MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL OPENS TONIGHT, WELCOMING AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKERS, ACTORS, AND OVER 75 INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

Noteworthy cast, crew, jurors and more join the 15 Annual Milwaukee Film Festival, running now through May 4th

MILWAUKEE, WI - Thursday, April 20th, 2023: Milwaukee Film is pleased to announce special guests for the 15th Annual Milwaukee Film Festival, [opening tonight with a documentary world premiere at The Oriental Theatre](#), including film directors, producers, actors, documentary participants, and over 75 industry professionals who will serve as jurors and panelists.

“We are excited to welcome so many filmmakers and industry guests to the festival and to our city,” enthused Cara Ogburn, Milwaukee Film’s artistic director. “Us Milwaukeeans know how wonderful the city is, of course, and the festival offers us the opportunity to show that off to the rest of the industry as an essential stop on the spring film festival circuit,” she continued.

Acclaimed documentarian Ondi Timoner returns to the Festival, attending for the first time in-person, with two new films, [THE NEW AMERICANS: GAMING A REVOLUTION](#) and [LAST FLIGHT HOME](#). Straight from its premiere at SXSW, THE NEW AMERICAN’S is Timoner’s latest documentary that uncovers the connection between the Gamestop squeeze and the January 6th insurrection to reveal the explosive possibilities of our digital future. LAST FLIGHT HOME features Eli Timoner, founder Air Florida, the fastest-growing airline in the world. In 2021, his declining health led him to pursue California’s End of Life Option Act. Captured in intimate vérité footage by Timoner herself, his middle child, this heart-wrenching film documents Eli’s

family gathering for his final days to share stories, laughter, and grief while exploring essential questions such as the meaning of life, death, family, and love. “To share LAST FLIGHT HOME in person is always so personally meaningful to me and my family,” Timoner explains. “The audience gets to meet my extraordinary father and go through the transformative, spiritual experience of watching this deeply intimate film together - and in this case my mother, Lisa, is coming to Milwaukee for a special Q&A and event.”

Timoner, along with members of her crew will attend special Q&A's following a Double Feature screening of THE NEW AMERICANS: GAMING A REVOLUTION and WE LIVE IN PUBLIC on April 29 at Noon at the Oriental Theatre and on April 30th for THE LAST FLIGHT HOME, showing 5:00 PM at The Oriental Theatre. “We are looking forward to coming to Milwaukee for the first time in person, after having a few films there over the years and even joining virtually over the pandemic!” Timoner exclaims. “The Double Feature of WE LIVE IN PUBLIC (MFF 2009) and THE NEW AMERICANS (2023) is particularly exciting, as I have never played those films back to back. They are my Internet films: both dive deep into how the tech is impacting our lives with visceral, action-packed vigor. I can't wait to share and discuss with everyone...See you soon Milwaukee!” she enthusiastically concludes.

Milwaukee Film is also honored to host Academy-award nominated director Sam Pollard, who will show his works [LOWNDES COUNTY AND THE ROAD TO BLACK POWER](#), [MAX ROACH: THE DRUM ALSO WALTZES](#), and [RISE AND REBUILD: A TALE OF THREE CITIES](#). Pollard will attend several Q&A's following his screenings on April 29 at 3:45 PM at the Times Cinema, April 29 at 12:15 PM at the Avalon Theater, and on April 30 at 1:45 PM at the Oriental Theatre.

Other notable directors and filmmakers in attendance at the 2023 Milwaukee Film Festival include Lisa Cortés, with her documentary [LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING](#) (screening as the Festival's Centerpiece screening on April 29); Lina Lyte Plioplyte, attending both screenings of her new documentary, [PERIODICAL](#); and Laura Moss, who will attend both screenings of [BIRTH/REBIRTH](#).

On Monday, May 1 at 6:00 PM, Milwaukee Film will also welcome two-time James Beard Award Winner, Chef Paul Bartolotta, and the team at Bacchus - A Bartolotta Restaurant to host an exclusive 5-course dinner, inspired by the film LOVE CHARLIE: THE RISE AND FALL OF CHEF CHARLIE TROTTER, showing as a part of The 2023 Milwaukee Film Festival. The dining experience will feature dishes influenced by Chef Charlie Trotter's repertoire, who was Bartolotta's colleague in Chicago for 10 years. Seating is limited. Tickets are available at mkefilm.org/events.

For the most up-to-date festival guest information, including attendance for screenings, events, and panels, please visit mkefilm.org/guests. **Interviews with guests are available upon request.** To request an interview, please email press@mkefilm.org.

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