

**THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES THE NINTH ANNUAL
SummerDocs SERIES**

**Lineup to include a record FIVE films:
NOBODY SPEAK: TRIALS OF THE FREE PRESS,
TROPHY, TAKE EVERY WAVE: THE LIFE OF LAIRD HAMILTON,
*WHITNEY. "CAN I BE ME" & ICARUS***

**HIFF Co-Chairman and Series Presenter Alec Baldwin returns to lead
conversations with filmmakers and special guests**

Series to run from July 8th to August 26th

East Hampton, NY (June 15, 2017) – The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF) SummerDocs series returns for the ninth year to present new and groundbreaking documentary filmmaking and thought-provoking stories to the East End. The series will kick off with a screening of Netflix's *NOBODY SPEAK: TRIALS OF THE FREE PRESS* on Saturday, July 8th at 7:00PM, followed by The Orchard & CNN Films' *TROPHY* on Saturday, July 29th at 7:00PM, both at Guild Hall in East Hampton. In August the series will also screen IFC's *TAKE EVERY WAVE: THE LIFE OF LAIRD HAMILTON* on Friday, August 4th at 8:30PM at Gurney's in Montauk, Showtime's *WHITNEY. "CAN I BE ME"* on Thursday, August 17th at 7:00PM at Southampton Arts Center in Southampton, and close with Netflix's *ICARUS* on Saturday, August 26th at 7:00PM at Guild Hall in East Hampton.

Following the screenings HIFF Co-Chairman Alec Baldwin & HIFF Artistic Director David Nugent will lead conversations with filmmakers and subjects including Director Brian Knappenberger and special guests to be announced for *NOBODY SPEAK: TRIALS OF THE FREE PRESS*, Directors Christina Clusiau and Shaul Schwarz for *TROPHY*, Director Rory Kennedy and subject Laird Hamilton for *TAKE EVERY WAVE: THE LIFE OF LAIRD HAMILTON*, Director Nick Broomfield for *WHITNEY. "CAN I BE ME"*, and Director Bryan Fogel for *ICARUS*.

"It's HIFF's 25th anniversary year and the ninth season of SummerDocs and we have a great lineup of documentary films, featuring intense drama and more entertaining fare. Artistic Director David Nugent and I believe this will be one of the best SummerDoc seasons yet," said Hamptons International Film Festival Co-Chairman and SummerDocs series presenter Alec Baldwin.

"This year's series truly includes something for everyone, from debates about free speech, an exploration of the trophy hunting industry, a pop star's triumphs & struggles,

a riveting sports scandal and a profile of a surfing pioneer. With a number of special guests set to attend, and engaging discussions following each screening, we are thrilled to share these films with our audiences,” said Hamptons International Film Festival Artistic Director David Nugent.

Past SummerDocs selections, including TWENTY FEET FROM STARDOM, LAST DAYS OF VIETNAM, THE COVE, SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN and HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE, have gone on to receive Academy Award® wins and nominations.

Candescent Films will return for the fourth year to sponsor the Audience Award for the SummerDocs series. Candescent supports films that illuminate social issues.

Tickets for the screenings are available for purchase at the Hamptons International Film Festival website, <http://hamptonsfilmfest.org/summerdocs/>.

Other summer programming includes a whole host of FREE Friday outdoor screenings with the YMCA East Hampton Rec Center at 7:45PM, and the Southampton Arts Center at 8:30PM. And as part of the 25 Years: 25 Films Series, there will be three FREE Sunday night screenings in Montauk. Visit the HIFF website for all the information and details at <http://hamptonsfilmfest.org/summer-2017-free-screenings/>.

Full Lineup of 2017 Summer Docs

NOBODY SPEAK: TRIALS OF THE FREE PRESS

Saturday, July 8th at 7:00PM at Guild Hall in East Hampton

When online tabloid *Gawker* posted a sex tape starring former professional wrestler Hulk Hogan, a high-stakes legal battle pitting privacy rights against the First Amendment ensued. Hogan won the case and the staggering settlement he received not only bankrupted *Gawker* and its founder Nick Denton, but also exposed a controversial, behind-the-scenes benefactor: Silicon Valley venture capitalist Peter Thiel.

Whether you love or hate *Gawker*, Brian Knappenberger’s gripping polemic reveals the forces that really brought down the news portal. Taking examples like Sheldon Adelson’s purchase of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, this compelling documentary illustrates a growing, sinister trend at odds with our country’s free press. Corporate executives, titans, and billionaires are tipping the balance on the public’s access to news, posing new threats to society’s relationship to the truth. Knappenberger’s knack for capturing timely and provocative shifts in the new digital era is instinctive. Fusing exhaustive interviews with Denton, commentators, and journalists *Nobody Speak* weaves a disturbing, fascinating tale of power and truth with a moral that runs to the core of democracy.

TROPHY

Saturday, July 29th at 7:00PM at Guild Hall in East Hampton

Endangered African species like elephants, rhinos and lions march closer to extinction

each year. Their devastating decline is fueled in part by a global desire to consume these majestic animals. *Trophy* investigates the powerhouse industries of big-game hunting, breeding and wildlife conservation. Through the eyes of impassioned individuals who drive these industries –from a Texas-based trophy hunter to the world’s largest private rhino breeder in South Africa –the film grapples with the consequences of imposing economic value on animals.

What are the implications of treating animals as commodities? Do breeding, farming and hunting offer some of the few remaining options to conserve our endangered animals? *Trophy* will leave you debating what is right, what is wrong and what is necessary in order to save the great species of the world.

TAKE EVERY WAVE: THE LIFE OF LAIRD HAMILTON

Friday, August 4th at 8:30PM at Gurney’s Montauk Resort & Spa in Montauk

TAKE EVERY WAVE: The Life of Laird Hamilton tracks the remarkable life and legendary career of big wave surfer Laird Hamilton. Much admired by the public, though often disdained or ignored by the surf industry itself, Laird is a unique sports icon—an athlete who has refused to compete professionally yet has dominated big wave surfing as no other figure in history ever has.

Laird’s biographical story is told against the backdrop of a winter surf season on Kauai, where El Niño storm systems threaten to bring the biggest surf in decades. Mixing never-before-seen archival footage with contemporary vérité scenes shot in Southern California, Bermuda and Kauai, *Take Every Wave* weaves the past and present into an intimate and compelling portrait of a superstar athlete at the top of his game. Threaded throughout is a revealing, deeply personal interview with Laird, as well as conversations with the family members, friends, collaborators and detractors who know him best.

Take Every Wave provides an intimate, uncompromising look at a lifetime devoted to riding giant surf—and the price an athlete pays for greatness.

WHITNEY. “CAN I BE ME”

Thursday, August 17th at 7:00PM at Southampton Arts Center in Southampton

Whitney Houston was a sure thing, or as sure as the music industry had ever seen. A transcendent talent with pedigree and mentorship to match, she was going to be the greatest female vocalist ever. For a time, she was, and then she all-too-publicly fell short.

Documentarian Nick Broomfield and iconic music video director Rudi Dolezal offer a never-before-seen backstage look at the height of Houston’s stardom and trace with penetrating detail the forces that contributed to her shortened career and subsequent death in 2012, at age 48. Whether it be racism, religion, drugs, sexuality, self-doubt, gossip, rivalry, insufficient training, the demands of parents and the industry, a troubled marriage playing out in headlines, or the inevitable toll those stresses take from so muscular and passionate a singer, the directors leave nothing unturned. They create a

picture of a remarkable woman who needed more help than she received and provide an unflinching, gripping, and wholly committed exploration of talent given and taken away, in an era obsessed with how that talent lives when the stage lights go down.

ICARUS

Saturday, August 26th at 7:00PM at Guild Hall in East Hampton

The ruthless worlds of international sports and politics rarely collide as spectacularly on screen as they do in Bryan Fogel's thriller, which is sure to set off convulsions of controversy.

While investigating the furtive world of illegal doping in sports, Fogel connects with renegade Russian Scientist Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov—a pillar of his country's "anti-doping" program. Over dozens of Skype calls, urine samples, and badly administered hormone injections, Fogel and Rodchenkov grow closer, despite shocking allegations that place Rodchenkov at the center of Russia's state-sponsored Olympic doping program. When the truth is more complex than imagined, and accusations of illegalities run to Russia's highest chains of command, the two realize they hold the power to reveal the biggest international sports scandal in living memory.

Exemplifying the special bond between filmmaker and subject, this is a vital portrait of the sacrifice some people will make to stand up for truth. *Icarus* places you at the heart of an international game of cat and mouse, where a miscalculation can cost you your life.

Additional HIFF Summer Screening Calendar:

June

Sunday, June 25th – THE COVE at 6:00PM at Guild Hall in East Hampton

Thursday, June 29th – THE DIVING BELL & THE BUTTERFLY, 7:00PM at MoMA in NYC

Friday, June 30th – HOOK at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton

July

Friday, July 7th – SITA SINGS THE BLUES at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton

Friday, July 7th – INDEPENDENCE DAY at 8:30PM at Southampton Arts Center

Friday, July 14th – BACK TO THE FUTURE at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton

Friday, July 14th – SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE at 8:30PM at Southampton Arts Center

Sunday, July 16th – TWENTY FEET FROM STARDOM at 8:30PM at Gurney's in Montauk

Thursday, July 20th – STILL ALICE at 6:00PM at Southampton Arts Center

Friday, July 21st – ATLANTIS at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton

Friday, July 21st – YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN at 8:30PM at Southampton Arts Center

Wednesday, July 26th – THE FOUNTAIN at 7:30PM at Mandala Yoga, Amagansett

Friday, July 28th – LIFE ANIMATED at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton

Friday, July 28th – ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S THE BIRDS at 8:30PM at Southampton Arts Center

August

Friday, August 4th – LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS at 7:45PM at YMCA East Hampton
Friday, August 4th – AIRPLANE at 8:30PM at Southampton Arts Center
Sunday, August 6th – SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN at 9:00PM at The Surf Lodge in Montauk
Friday, August 11th – JUMANJI at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton
Friday, August 11th – THE ARTIST at 8:30PM at Southampton Arts Center
Sunday, August 13th – OPEN WATER at 8:30PM at Gurney's in Montauk
Friday, August 18th – ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton
Friday, August 18th – THE PRINCESS BRIDE at 8:30PM at Southampton Arts Center
Friday, August 25th – SPIRITED AWAY at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton
Friday, August 25th – REMEMBER THE TITANS at 8:30PM at Southampton Arts Center
Wednesday, August 30th – POLLOCK at 7:00PM at Guild Hall East Hampton

September

Friday, September 1st – WHALE RIDER at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton
Friday, September 1st – JAWS at 8:30PM at Southampton Arts Center
Friday, September 8th – CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton
Friday, September 15th – WEST SIDE STORY at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton
Friday, September 22nd – THE 'BURBS at 7:45PM at the YMCA East Hampton

ABOUT THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF) is a year-round 501(c)3 non-profit organization with events, screenings, film workshops, comprehensive summer programs and an annual film festival each October. The Festival is the premiere film event on New York State's east end, and is an intimate showcase of some of the year's best offerings in contemporary cinema from around the world. With cash and in-kind prizes handed out totaling more than \$225,000, HIFF continues to attract some of the best films of the year.

Selections from all of our programs continue to play an important role during awards season. 2017 marked the 7th time in a row that a film in the Festival has become the eventual Best Picture winner at the Oscars, making HIFF the only Festival on the East Coast with such a distinction. For more information please visit: www.hamptonsfilmfest.org

Press Contact

FRANK PR | 646.861.0843

Lina Plath | Lina@frankpublicity.com

Clare Anne Darragh | Clareanne@frankpublicity.com