

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE 29TH ANNUAL HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
TO OPEN WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATED DIRECTOR MATTHEW HEINEMAN'S
COVID-19 FILM, *THE FIRST WAVE*

SIGNATURE PROGRAM FILMS ANNOUNCED
JR'S PAPER & GLUE,
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATED LIZ GARBUS' *BECOMING COUSTEAU*,
KELCEY EDWARDS' *THE ART OF MAKING IT*, AND
GARTH DE BRUNO AUSTIN'S *THE LAST HORNS OF AFRICA*

ARTIST TONI ROSS' *FINDING BEAUTY IN A DARK PLACE*
SELECTED FOR THIS YEAR'S POSTER

2021 Edition to Run October 7 - 13, 2021 as Live and In-Person Festival

Images Available [HERE](#)

NEW YORK, NY (August 12, 2021) – HamptonsFilm announced today that the 29th edition of the Hamptons International Film Festival will take place October 7 – 13 with live and in-person events and screenings across the Hamptons. The festival will open on Thursday, October 7, 2021, with the World Premiere of Academy Award-nominated director Matthew Heineman's **THE FIRST WAVE**, a documentary feature spotlighting the everyday heroes inside one of the country's hardest hit hospitals at the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic as they come together to fight one of the greatest threats the world has ever encountered.

As part of HIFF's Signature Program Views from Long Island, supported by Suffolk County Film Commission, HIFF will feature the World Premiere of Kelcey Edwards' **THE ART OF MAKING IT**. The documentary follows a diverse cast of young artists at defining moments in their careers as they explore whether the art world ecosystem meant to nurture them is actually failing them. Screening as part of the festival's Conflict and Resolution section, JR's **PAPER & GLUE** features world renowned artist JR (Academy Award nominee for *FACES, PLACES*) turning the camera on his own work as he builds some of his monumental projects. Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Liz Garbus' **BECOMING COUSTEAU**, which will hold its New York Premiere as part of the Air, Land & Sea section, takes an inside look at legendary explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau and his life, career, and mission to protect the Earth. Garth De Bruno Austin's **THE LAST HORNS OF AFRICA**, which will have its East Coast Premiere as a part of the Compassion, Justice and Animal Rights section, features gripping and never-before-captured footage of the current rhino poaching war raging across Africa.

"Oscar-nominated filmmaker Matthew Heineman has made a stunning film highlighting not only the resilience of the human spirit, but the selflessness of healthcare workers who risk their own lives to keep us safe. We are honored to open our 29th edition with the world premiere of his film, which succeeds at exploring the gravity of a historic moment through his intimate style of filmmaking," said HamptonsFilm Artistic Director David Nugent. "We are also thrilled to announce a strong group of films screening as a part

of our Signature Programs - including films by local artists as well as those wrestling with the issue of the sanctity of our planet and the lives of the animals with whom we share it."

The festival also announced the poster artist for the 2021 edition will be local East End artist and HIFF co-founder and founding Chairman of the Board, Toni Ross' *Finding Beauty in a Dark Place*. Created over a span of eight months, from 2020 to 2021, *Finding Beauty* consists of fifty-two individual weavings of wool, cotton, linen, and silk, assembled as one. This piece charts the course of the COVID-19 virus throughout the United States. From Maine to Alaska, measuring eighteen feet in length, *Finding Beauty* speaks to an inherent duality in the daily graphing of the virus. The elegant nature of the graphs belies the pain, fear, and sadness wrought by the virus. However, their graphic beauty highlights the contrasts within our country, offering an appreciation for the gift of time in slow motion. It is this duality of the beautiful and the tragic that moved Toni to weave this story. Our story. And so it continues. Previous festival poster artists include Bastienne Schmidt (2020), Lee Krasner (2019), Paton Miller (2018), Eric Fischl (2017), John Alexander (2016), Bruce Weber (2011), Julian Schnabel (2001), April Gornik (1995, 2005), Cindy Sherman (2006) and Donald Sultan (1996), among others.

"Especially this year, we are excited to bring together our film-loving community to celebrate the art of film and storytelling. We are also elated to announce our 2021 poster artist is our very own founder, Toni Ross, renowned artist, East Ender, restaurateur and recipient of the 2019 HIFF Dick Cavett Artistic Champion Award." said Anne Chaisson, Executive Director of HamptonsFilm. "Toni meticulously created this new piece throughout the Pandemic to commemorate and reflect on our shared experience. I am forever grateful for her generosity."

HamptonsFilm will take enhanced safety measures for the 29th edition in accordance with COVID-19 regulations across the state. Attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination for all in-person events, and will be required to wear masks. HamptonsFilm holds the safety of our guests, filmmakers, and staff as our highest priority, and is closely monitoring any and all changes to New York State and Suffolk County health guidelines.

The 29th Annual Hamptons Film Festival will run October 7-13, 2021. Passes will be on sale after Labor Day. Additional information on HamptonsFilm's year-round programming, SummerDocs and Free Outdoor Summer Screenings In Herrick Park can be found on the website. HIFF thanks the supporters for this year's festival, including corporate sponsors Audi, Netflix, KORE Private Wealth, and official media sponsors WNBC, Variety, *The Purist Magazine*, and *The East Hampton Star*. HamptonsFilm is grateful for the long-term support from New York State Council on the Arts and Suffolk County. For more information, please visit www.hamptonsfilmfest.org.

2021 Hamptons International Film Festival Lineup

*****OPENING NIGHT*****

THE FIRST WAVE

World Premiere

dir. Matthew Heineman (USA), 2021

With exclusive access to one of New York's hardest-hit hospital systems, Oscar®-nominated and Emmy® Award-winning director Matthew Heineman's *THE FIRST WAVE* spotlights the everyday heroes at the epicenter of COVID-19 as they come together to fight one of the greatest threats the world has ever encountered. Leaving a devastating trail of death and despair, this once-in-a-century pandemic changed the very fabric of daily life and exposed long-standing inequities in our society. The "first wave" of COVID-19 ravaged New York from March through June 2020. Employing his signature approach of character-driven cinema vérité, Heineman documents those harrowing first four months, embedding with a group of doctors, nurses and patients on the frontlines as they all navigated the crisis. With each distinct storyline serving as a microcosm through which we can view the emotional and societal impacts of the pandemic, *THE FIRST WAVE* is a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

THE ART OF MAKING IT

World Premiere

dir. Kelcey Edwards (USA), 2021

Against the backdrop of a culture in crisis, THE ART OF MAKING IT follows a diverse cast of young artists at defining moments in their careers to explore whether the art world ecosystem meant to nurture them is actually failing them. Are we at risk of losing the creative voices of a new generation as universities, galleries and museums face cataclysmic changes? Or, are we on the verge of recreating outdated modes of experiencing art to make it accessible to all? Embracing the conundrum of how artists must be in the market yet not of it, THE ART OF MAKING IT is both a cautionary tale about what America stands to lose if we don't rethink what we value and why and a love letter to those who persevere in their artistic practice in spite of the extraordinary odds against ever achieving success.

BECOMING COUSTEAU

New York Premiere

dir. Liz Garbus (USA), 2021

Adventurer, filmmaker, innovator, author, unlikely celebrity and conservationist: For over four decades Jacques-Yves Cousteau and his explorations under the ocean became synonymous with a love of science and the natural world. As he learned to protect the environment, he brought the whole world with him—he sounded alarms more than 50 years ago about the warming seas and our planet's vulnerability. In BECOMING COUSTEAU, two-time Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Liz Garbus takes an inside look at Cousteau and his life, his iconic films and inventions, and the experiences that made him the 20th century's most unique and renowned environmental voice—and the man who inspired generations to protect the Earth.

THE LAST HORNS OF AFRICA

East Coast Premiere

dir. Garth de Bruno Austin (United States), 2021

With unprecedented access, THE LAST HORNS OF AFRICA is a gripping and intimate look at the current rhino poaching war raging across Africa. We follow the journeys of two conservation heroes who put their lives on the line to protect the rhino in their care, while a top-secret, covert operation endeavors to bring down South Africa's most notorious rhino poaching syndicates. Hidden away in South Africa is the world's largest rhino orphanage, run by Petronel Nieuwoudt, who deals with the aftermath: the orphaned rhino calves knowingly left for dead by poachers. Through her eyes, the viewer gets an insight into the incredible bonds that are formed and the heart-wrenching reality of where these calves have come from. Meanwhile, in Kruger National Park—ground zero for rhino poaching—Don English, a veteran ranger, commands his brave team on the front line of the rhino horn war as they set out on an almost insurmountable task of protecting the rhinoceros in an area the size of Israel. From never-before-seen footage of South Africa's largest undercover wildlife investigation and interviews with poachers, the filmmakers risk their lives as they are thrust into the underground world of illicit rhino horn deals organized by South Africa's ruthless rhino poaching kingpins. THE LAST HORNS OF AFRICA is a firsthand look at the complexities and moral debates of contemporary conservation, which has found itself entangled in the dark web of corruption and the illegal wildlife trade.

PAPER & GLUE

dir. JR (France, USA), 2021

In PAPER & GLUE, JR turns the camera on his own work as he builds some of his most monumental projects. From early illicit graffiti videos captured on Paris rooftops at night, to the US-Mexico border, to the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, to a current collaboration at a California supermax prison, the film follows JR as he turns these communities inside out, turning images of residents into eye-catching and immersive art installations. PAPER & GLUE follows the Oscar-nominated FACES PLACES, which was directed by JR along with Agnès Varda.

ABOUT HAMPTONSFILM

HamptonsFilm, home of the Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF), based in the Hamptons on the Eastern End of Long Island, was founded in 1992 to celebrate the art of film and to introduce a unique and varied spectrum of international films and filmmakers to our audiences. A non-profit organization with year-round screenings of global narrative and documentary films, an annual Screenwriters Lab, a summer documentary showcase, and extensive educational initiatives, HamptonsFilm offers programs that enlighten, educate, and provide invaluable exposure for filmmakers, while also providing the East End of Long Island with an educational and cultural experience that enriches the lives of its citizens and contributes to the local economy. HIFF, celebrating its 29th year, is an annual premiere film event in New York State, and an intimate showcase of some of the year's best offerings in contemporary cinema from around the world. Awarding prizes to filmmakers in cash and goods and services of over \$130,000 each year, with over \$4.5 million awarded in competition funds and services over the past 28 years, our program continues to play an important role during awards season. 2020 marked the 11th 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 in the world with such a distinction. For more information, please visit hamptonsfilmfest.org.

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