

**Festival Updates**

**Stand by:**

For today's stand-by list, please refer to the schedule in today's Daily.

**Late Additions:**

Sunday April 3rd

**Ohio Shorts Program** 9:20 am

**Vincent Wants to Sea** 9:35 am

**Dressed** 7:20 pm

Check for the latest festival updates on the festival blog, and on Twitter or Facebook. For more information, visit [www.clevelandfilm.org/social](http://www.clevelandfilm.org/social)



**'Magic Erie Water' is Creative Juice for Songwriting Team**

The catchy trailer song, "I Can Be," that plays before every film, has a Cleveland connection. It was written by three former Clevelanders who now make their living in the film and music business.

"I had a ball making it," says composer Craig Wedren, who has written for feature films, such as "Anchorman," "Roger Dodger" and "Wet Hot American Summer." He and co-conspirators Mike Farrell and Lee Mars were sent a basic concept/script for the trailer, which had this kernel in it: "I'm not...but I can be."

"It was a very clear, succinct hook," says Wedren. "So we built the song around that."

They all grew up here, so it felt good to do something Cleve-centric, says Wedren. "None of us would be who – or where – we are today if it hadn't been for that magic Erie water."

The three enjoyed the break from "making music under pressure" and stress. "The CIFF project was pretty free and clear of all that, so we were able to relax and have fun," he says.

Because they were too busy working on those other stressful projects, they weren't able to make it to the Festival. Instead, their parents scored passes, courtesy of Authentic Films, creator of the trailer. —Anne M. DiTeodoro

**CIFF Trailer Lyrics**

**I CAN BE**

I'm not a Hero  
But I can be  
I'm not a Villain  
But I can be  
I'm not a Rebel  
But I can be  
I'm not a Lover  
But I can be

Meet me at the club  
Watch me on the wire  
Chase me to my doom  
Fly me to the moon  
Save me from the fire  
Up against the wall  
Treat me to my heart's desire

I can be (a Hero)  
Part of the story (a Villain a Rebel)  
I can be (a Lover a Fighter)  
Part of the story (an Outlaw a Gangster)  
I can be (a Cowboy a Dreamer)  
Part of the story (a King a Queen)  
I can be  
Part of the story.

Go to [www.clevelandfilm.org/festival/downloads-and-media/audio-clips](http://www.clevelandfilm.org/festival/downloads-and-media/audio-clips) to hear the trailer song.



Lover

**Turning 40 at the 35th CIFF**

Where would you want to spend a milestone birthday – pampering yourself at a warm and sunny resort somewhere, perhaps?

Nope. Kate O'Neil of Authentic Films, creator of the film trailer, invited her girlfriends to Cleveland and the CIFF.

"Come feed your brain and get inspired in the spring," she told them.

The women, who are all turning 40 within the year, have remained friends since they attended College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. They will be traveling from Minneapolis, Washington, DC, Pittsburgh, and Hartford, CT, and meeting at Tower City Center.

While in Cleveland, O'Neil will give them a quick tour of downtown, and they'll probably

get a manicure, "but most of the time we'll see movies," she says.

And husbands aren't invited!

—Anne M. DiTeodoro



Stephanie Candon, Kelly Miley, Kate O'Neil, Amy Moschella, and Renee Gebben.

THE DAILY

SUNDAY April 3rd, 2011 Day 11

HERO LOVER REBEL

BE PART OF THE STORY

35th Cleveland International Film Festival

**A mother's love**

After a stroke, Danièle Wilmouth was looking for role models – "people who could teach me how to bravely face fundamental life change, and overcome fear of the unknown."

She found them – in rural Pennsylvania, at the home of her 85-year-old grandmother Eleanore, who lived with her special needs son Ronnie, 61.

"My grandmother Eleanore gave me a lot of support and strength," she says. "She somehow had learned to accept the unexpected, impermanence, and even cruelty of life."

Wilmouth spent seven years chronicling the lives of Eleanore and Ronnie for her film, "Eleanore & the Timekeeper," and says that they "were wonderful collaborators for this project." The film allowed the three of them

to spend concentrated intense periods of time together. "We exchanged creative ideas, talked through the hard decisions they were facing, and became closer," she says.

She drove from her home in Chicago to Eleanore's home several times each year to shoot during different seasons, and to capture special occasions, like birthdays and barn dances.

She did the camera work, while one or two student interns (she is also a teacher) accompanied her to assist. Wilmouth, working with 16mm film, found the lighting particularly challenging. "After seven years of shooting," she says, "I can now light a barn of 300+ square dancers with little more than two Lowell light kits and a clothespin."

She also worked diligently to portray symbolic images throughout the film –



Danièle Wilmouth, director of "Eleanore & The Timekeeper," discusses her film at the FilmForum.

trucks speeding across the frame represent the relentless progression of time and change; ceiling lamps depict the rising sun; and table

lamps are the eyes and ears of the house, she explains. She also notes that pattern and repetition are unifying themes – reflected through the rotation of the seasons, and in Ronnie's daily habits.

But ultimately, the film is "a quiet love story between a mother and son, which celebrates life's natural cycles of monotony and impermanence."

The two star subjects have seen the film. A special screening was planned at "the only movie theater in that area." It was packed with about 300 people. Afterwards they attended a special reception.

—Anne M. DiTeodoro



left to right: Gretchen Wilmouth (sister of filmmaker Danièle); Rita Wilmouth (Danièle's Mom and Ronnie's sister); Larry Dunlop of Easter Seals (Ronnie's caretaker); Ronnie Hickman (Danièle's Uncle); and Danièle Wilmouth.

SHOWING TODAY

**ELEANORE & THE TIMEKEEPER** is playing today at 2:15 p.m.

**The BUZZ**

The Buzz is your source for the latest festival highlights and best bets for films each day. You can also catch "The Buzz" video program with Meaghan Earley at [www.clevelandfilm.org/blog](http://www.clevelandfilm.org/blog) and [www.youtube.com/clevelandfilmfest](http://www.youtube.com/clevelandfilmfest).

**HERE'S WHAT'S BUZZING FOR Sunday, April 3, 2011; CIFF Day 11:**

At 9:35 AM, "Vincent Wants to Sea" is back by popular demand. The late addition to the Sunday line-up is a charming comedy about Vincent, who suffers from Tourette's Syndrome, and his search for happiness.

"Welcome to Shelbyville" at 11:30 a.m. This documentary takes us to a Tennessee town dealing with cultural differences after a recent influx of Somalis.

At 2:00 p.m., "The Other F Word: A Coming of Middle Age Story" shows the softer side of punk. Famous anti-authoritarians – including Flea, Rise Against's Tim McIlrath, and Pennywise's Jim Lindberg – are featured in this documentary about how raising children can change even the toughest of men.

At 4:30 p.m. don't miss the Shorts Audience Awards, which is a collection of favorite short films.

At 6:45 p.m., "An Earthly Paradise For the Eyes" is a dark comedy focusing on a mother and her two daughters who are caught up in the 1968 Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia.

And with that...we wrap up the 35th Cleveland International Film Festival. Be sure to join us around the fountain for our closing night reception at 9:00 p.m.

Find out the latest information about these films and other festival events by picking up The Daily, reading the festival blog and, of course, seeing as many films as you can.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter throughout the year and join us this time next year.

• Marissa DeSantis is the 35th CIFF's Foursquare Mayor. Congratulations! <http://foursquare.com/marissadesantis>



Athlete from the film "Autumn Gold."

## Age is only a number Local gold shines

This July, athletes from around the globe will gather in Sacramento, California to compete in the World Masters Athletics Championships (WMA), which take place every two years. What sets WMA Championships apart is that the athletes competing are older, ranging in age from 35 to 100 years.

Jan Tenhaven's film, "Autumn Gold," follows five Master's athletes in their pursuit of victory at the competition. The competitions are divided into age categories in five year increments, such as 35-39, 40-45, and so on.

"So, you always feel competitive because you are always competing against your age group," says Grace Butcher, local athlete who has been a world record holder in Master's track events. At age 77, she still competes.

"It's remarkable when you go to [a competition]," she says. "And you see 70-80- and 90 year-old people high jumping, hurtling, pole vaulting, sprinting and throwing the discus."

Butcher, who was first coached by Olympic athlete Stella Walsh has been running for most of her life, and still finds a great joy in the sport.

"I hope to do it forever. I'd like to win the nationals or the world when I am 120. I hope they add a new age group. I don't want to have to compete against 104 year olds when I am 120." —*Bridget Kriner*



Michael Ciccarello, an instructor at ReZults in Tower City, led a fitness demonstration last Friday, in conjunction with the film "Autumn Gold."

**SHOWING TODAY** **AUTUMN GOLD** is playing today at 11:40 a.m.

# The Literary Legend

Joseph Mantegna liked Norman Mailer immediately. He met him at a barbecue outside his friend's home years ago. He was impressed by Mailer and describes him as a "a stunning conversationalist – charming, witty [and] confident."

Mailer, a literary legend, won two Pulitzer Prizes in his prolific career – one for "The Armies of the Night" in 1968 and one for "The Executioner's Song" in 1979. He lived to the age of 84, was married six times and had nine children.

He is well known for the role he played in the development of the genre known as New Journalism, which approaches journalistic reporting with creative literary techniques. Mailer, along with other writers such as Truman Capote, Joan Didion and Hunter S. Thompson, pioneered the style.

Mantegna's favorite work of Mailer's is "Harlot's Ghost." He enjoys its "fascinating depiction of the CIA." He says it was

"The final purpose of art is to intensify, even, if necessary, to exacerbate, the moral consciousness of people." —*Norman Mailer*



LEFT: Norman Mailer. RIGHT: Joe Mantegna, director of "Norman Mailer: The American."

Photo: Janet Macoska

difficult to "distill" Mailer's life into a 97-minute film.

"This is a man whose literary career spans decades, and whose personality is larger than life," says Mantegna. "His persona and how it evolves over time, as seen in his interviews on shows like The Dick Cavet Show, is truly a sight to behold." —*Bridget Kriner*

**SHOWING TODAY** **NORMAN MAILER: THE AMERICAN** is playing today at 4:45 p.m.

## Hero. Rebel. Lover. JUDGE.

Be Part of the Story. It's what the CIFF is all about this year. From filmmakers and actors, to staff members, volunteers and film go-ers everyone is given an opportunity to be part of a story that is the Cleveland International Film Festival.

The CIFF is extending this theme to all, and for these lucky judges, they are given the ability to do just that: They get to be part of the story. For the Central and Eastern European Film Competition, judges David D'Arcy, Michael Lerman and Ulla Rapp have the challenge of narrowing down the winner. And Jeff Malmberg, David Wilson and Bryce J. Renninger will be judging for the Nesnadny + Schwartz Documentary Film Competition.

How do the judges keep track of the films while watching? "Note taking," David D'Arcy admits. Jeff Malmberg agrees, "Just to get down on paper your initial reaction to a film when it's over. That way when you're making your decision there's something to reference."

Given one of the most challenging jobs,

it can only be assumed that the judges are under a lot of pressure. Malmberg admitted, "Film festival awards mean a lot to the life of a film and this one comes with a money prize, so it's extra valuable to a filmmaker." D'Arcy adds, "I, clearly, have an opinion. Why are you a film critic if you don't express an opinion?"

As far as narrowing it down, does this come easy, and more so, how does one prepare oneself to make the selection? Malmberg states, "I don't think it's so much a question of preparing yourself. I think it's just a gut thing." D'Arcy said, "It comes down to two or three and you talk with colleagues." For all judges, it is a unique experience to be able to chat with others and hear their views and opinions of the films. Without a doubt, it's easiest when there is a unanimous decision. Come and see what they decide on! The awards for both the Central and Eastern European Film Competition and the Nesnadny + Schwartz Documentary Film Competition will be announced at the Closing Night Reception. —*Meaghan S. Earley*

## 35th Memories

Thirty five years ago, Jon Forman, Steve Markus, Alan Glazen and Rick Whitbeck kicked off the Cleveland International Film Festival at the Cedar Lee Theatre with Orson Welles' film "F for Fake." Eight films from seven countries were shown over an eight-week period. Now, these many years later, the festival features more than 250 films from more than 60 countries over 11 days. Many memories have been made along the way. Here are some memorable moments that took place along the way:



Executive Director Marcie Goodman is flanked by past executive directors David Wittkowsky (left) and Jonathan R. Forman (right).

"My favorite memory comes from my first year picking some of the films for the festival. I told the audience in a particular screening that the film was my favorite. Afterwards, some guy from the audience came up to me and asked, 'Is that really you're favorite film?' I said yes, and he gave me his card and said I should go see him — he was a psychoanalyst. It freaked me out, but I happen to like weird stuff." —*Bill Guentzler*, the artistic director of the CIFF.

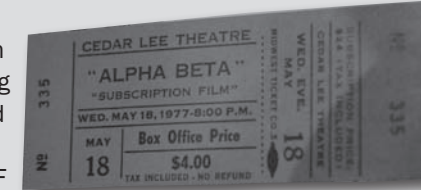
"In 1999, I went to Iceland for the millennium. When I came home and opened the mail that had accumulated, there was one that said I was missing staff meetings (at the time I was a volunteer). I called down to the office and said I got the wrong letter. They said, 'Well, you've been working with festival longer than any of us, so we decided you're part of the staff.'" —*Thom Duke*, Duke Desk manager

"Major League was exciting for us to have for opening night of the 13th festival. Almost the entire cast came — Corbin Bernsen, Tom Berenger, Wesley Snipes, Bob Uecker. Charlie Sheen wasn't there, but we had a great night just the same; we were still winning!" —*Jane Temple*, founder Jonathan R. Forman's wife

"If I hadn't been a rebel, the film festival would have never been started because there were a lot of people who said, 'You're out of your mind.' Alan Glazen gave me just enough of a kick to get this thing started. And I'm a hero for starting it and then letting others, who are very capable, take it and run with it. I never envisioned this thing would be as big as it is today." —*Jonathan R. Forman*, founder of the CIFF



TOP: CIFF Artistic Director Bill Guentzler with actor Russell Harvard, from the Opening Night film, "Hamill." BOTTOM: Jon Forman (left) and Alan Glazen who were responsible for starting the CIFF 35 years ago.



## Join us for a Closing Night Reception

**9:00 p.m.** Closing Night Reception @ Tower City Center Skylight Concourse (around the fountain).

CIFF members at the Movie Mogul, Executive Producer, and Director levels are invited to join us for the Closing Night Film, "Soul Surfer," at 7:00 p.m. at Tower City Cinemas, followed by a reception around the fountain at Tower City Center. Additional tickets (for this film – or any film showing in the last round – and the reception) can be purchased for \$10 (CIFF Members) or \$12 (Non-Members).

**The Reception will include a brief program announcing the winners of the following:**

- Greg Gund Memorial Standing Up Film Competition
- Nesnadny + Schwartz Documentary Film Competition
- Central and Eastern European Film Competition
- Roxanne T. Mueller Audience Choice Award
  - Audience Choice Award for Best American Independent
- We will also present the Cleveland International Film Festival Legacy Award to our founder, Jonathan R. Forman.



"Soul Surfer"

## Challenge Match

**Thank you for helping us exceed our goal of \$35,000!**

There is still time to make your tax-deductible donation, and you'll be able to enter a drawing for prizes. Stop by the Challenge Match table in the Tower City Cinemas lobby today!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## Part of her story: For Audra Degesys, CIFF made a difference

**CIFF:** How has the CIFF impacted your life?  
**AD:** After I transferred to Case Western Reserve University from New York University in 1997, I lived and breathed film. The CIFF showed films that I thought I could only find at special screenings in New York. In fact, two of the documentaries that were shown at the CIFF influenced my career choices – "Well Founded Fear" in 2000, a documentary about the INS that inspired me to work with refugees at Cleveland's International Services Center and "The World According to Sesame Street" in 2006, which motivated me to study Conflict Resolution and intern at "Sesame Workshop" (producers of the international co-productions of Sesame Street) in New York City.



Degesys currently resides in Washington D.C. where she is a foreign service officer for the United States Agency for International Development.

**CIFF:** How many years have you attended the festival?

**AD:** My first CIFF was in 1997 and I've attended as many as possible since then. I missed about 5 years when I lived abroad in the Ukraine and the Middle East but now that I'm based in DC, I've been coordinating my trips/flights back home to see family and friends at the same time as the festival. I also have a great group of CIFFers (Cleveland International Film Festival Friends) whom I go with each year.

—*Interview by Bridget Kriner*