**2015 WPA FILM FESTIVAL**

**ALPHABETICAL DESCRIPTION OF FILMS**

The following alphabetical listing gives a brief description and presentation time of each offering included in this year’s Film Festival. All films will be shown in the

Veranda D Room. All information provided in the listing is for DVDs and does not include shipping charges, if any. All presentations will be shown in groups according to content area as indicated in the film schedule for each day (given at the beginning of each day’s activities within the daily program). Notably, a special Encore! Presentation of last year’s Film Festival winner will take place Thursday evening. Last year’s winning films are so noted in the alphabetical listing below. A more complete description of each film will be available for your inspection in the screening room, and free brochures also will be available for most of the films. The names and addresses of participating film distributors are provided immediately following the present listing.

**A Will for the Woods** (93 mins)

Sunday 10:15 a.m.

Musician, folk dancer, and psychiatrist Clark Wang prepares for his own green burial, determined that his final resting place will benefit the earth. Wang's passionate wish for a legacy of green burials inspires a profoundly affecting and optimistic portrait of people finding meaning in death. *A Will for the Woods* draws viewers into a life-affirming and immersive portrait of people embracing their connection to timeless natural cycles.

*Bullfrog Films (2013; DVD). Rental Price $95; Purchase Price $295*

**Actress** (86 mins)

Saturday 8:00 a.m.

The roles women are expected to play in today's society, and the difficulties in balancing career and family, are the central issues deftly explored in critically-acclaimed documentary *Actress*. Using elements of melodrama and cinema verité, the film follows the travails of a former actress-turned-housewife as she prepares to make a comeback.

*The Cinema Guild, (2014; DVD, Blu-Ray). Rental Price $125; Purchase Price $350*

**Alfredo’s Fire** (39 mins)

Friday 12:00 p.m.

On January 13, 1998 Alfredo Ormando, a closeted gay writer from Sicily, shocked the world by lighting himself on fire in St. Peter's Square, the only time such a protest had taken place on Vatican soil. Despite the attempt by some in the gay community to frame the event as the spark of the 'Italian Stonewall,' Alfredo's gesture quickly faded into obscurity. ALFREDO'S FIRE chronicles one man's descent into darkness as he struggles to reconcile his faith and sexuality. Looking at fire as a potent but contradictory symbol of liberation, annihilation and communion, this film tells a universal story of human longing, frailty and the dire consequences of living a lie.

*Open Eye Pictures (2013; DVD, Blu-Ray). Rental Price n/a; Purchase Price $199*

**Born to be Good** (51 mins)

Thursday 8:00 a.m.

Psychologists have always wondered if we are born with an innate sense of morality. This documentary presents research that supports the theory that babies are born with a sense of ‘right’ and ‘wrong’.

*Filmaker’s Library (2012; DVD, 3-year & perpetual streaming access also available). Rental Price n/a; Purchase Price $295*

**El Huaso: The Last Rodeo** (78 mins)

Friday 8:00 a.m.

Mental illness and depression are compellingly explored in the story of Gustavo, a 58-year-old successful businessman with an increasingly urgent impulse toward suicide—just like his father before him. Gustavo is convinced his memory problems and ongoing battle with depression are symptoms of a bigger medical issue: early-onset Alzheimer’s, and he sees suicide as his only option. But his family—including Gustavo’s filmmaker son, Carlo—are determined to fight their hardest to keep Gustavo with them as long as possible.

*Magic Lantern (2012; DVD). Rental Price $89; Purchase Price $199*

**Evolution of a Criminal** (83 mins)

Saturday 10:30 a.m.

In the new award-winning documentary *Evolution of a Criminal*, Darius Clark Monroe crafts an intricate and emotionally complex narrative of his own trajectory from straight-A student to bank robber, while ultimately reflecting on the racial and economic factors that surround his crime as he searches for answers and seeks forgiveness.

*GOOD DOCS (2013; DVD). Rental Price – Contact distributor; Purchase Price $349*

**Expert Witness: Health Professionals on the Frontline Against Torture** (45 mins)

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

The recent report of the Senate Intelligence Committee is the latest in a series of revelations about the complicity of psychologists and physicians in detainee torture. Far less known are the health professionals who heroically resist pressures to provide cover and support for state-sponsored torture. *Expert Witness* is a documentary about the important role of health professionals in fighting torture, beginning with the doctor largely responsible for the Nuremberg Doctors trial and the Nuremberg Code. Produced by the director of *Doctors of the Dark Side*, *Expert Witness* explores four ways that health professionals have helped stop torture: through eyewitness reporting, evaluation and treatment of torture survivors, research on the effects of torture, and bioethics study of medical complicity in torture.

*www.expertwitnessagainsttorture.com (2015; DVD). This film will be available for free streaming online, and as a free DVD for professional conferences and ethics courses.*

**Flore** (93 mins)

Saturday 1:30 p.m.

A touching film about hope and dignity that asks how we as a society care for our elderly, *Flore* is an intimate film about the director's relationship with his mother, who is diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. Refusing to watch his mother waste away under hospital care, he brings her to a quiet seaside cottage, where despite all the doctors' prognoses, she begins to recover.

*The Cinema Guild, (2013; DVD). Rental Price $125; Purchase Price $350*

**Forget Me Not - Losing Memory - Finding Love** (88 mins)

Saturday 12:00 p.m.

Filmmaker David Sieveking weaves an astonishingly candid, loving and revelatory chronicle of the changes his mother's Alzheimer's has on his family. Although dealing with his mother's disease is painful, caring for her does offer Sieveking a chance to reconnect with his family and immerse himself in the secrets and passions of his parents' long and fascinating lives. What emerges is a poignant and rich study of family ties and the unexpected rewards that come from living life to the fullest.

*Bullfrog Films (2012; DVD). Rental Price $95; Purchase Price $295*

**Genetic Me** (52 mins)

Thursday 1:00 p.m.

Genetic Me profiles science journalist Lone Frank, who is on a mission to know how the advent of personal genetics will change our individual view of ourselves and affect our understanding of human nature.  In particular, she explores if personality is genetically pre-determined, and takes the viewer on a scientific and philosophical quest into how genetic information shapes the brain and mind.

*Filmaker’s Library (2014; DVD, 3-year & perpetual streaming access also available). Rental Price n/a; Purchase Price $295*

**Homecoming: Conversations with Combat PTSD** (29 mins)

Thursday 2:00 p.m.

*Homecoming* is a documentary film exploring how United States Marines experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Using interviews with Marine combat veterans of OIF and OEF, the film takes viewers beyond the abstract concept of "PTSD" to reveal what it means to live with the memories of war after coming home. It invites the viewer to   
rethink the idea of Combat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and their own responsibility to our men and women in the armed services.

*Trespass Productions (2013; DVD, Blu-Ray). Rental Price n/a; Purchase Price $200/universities & colleges*

**In the Shadow of the Sun** (85 mins)

**\*\*\*WINNER OF THE 2014 WPA FILM FESTIVAL\*\*\***

Thursday 6:45 p.m.

A story about human rights, deep-rooted superstition, and incredible strength, *In the Shadow of the Sun* explores the troubling increase of violence and brutal murders in Tanzania targeting people with albinism. Filmed over six years, *In The Shadow Of The Sun* tells the incredible story of two albino men as they attempt to follow their dreams in the face of prejudice and fear: Vedastus, a quietly determined 15-year-old, who still hopes of completing his education, and Josephat Torner, a young man who has dedicated his life to campaigning against the discrimination of his people. In these two impassioned individuals, we recognize our most basic human needs: to belong to a community of others, to forge our own sense of personal identity, and the unimaginable lengths to which we must go to preserve our dignity.

*The Cinema Guild, (2013; DVD). Rental Price $125; Purchase Price $350*

**Land of Opportunity** (97 mins)

Thursday 3:45 p.m.

*Land of Opportunity* dives deep into the (re)construction of post-Katrina New Orleans through the eyes of a diverse group of people from different walks of life. This verité style documentary reveals how different communities grappled with the ongoing trauma of one of the most devastating disasters in our nation’s recent history. As large-scale disasters become our “new normal” the lessons of loss, healing and resilience offered by this beloved city have only become more urgent.

*New Day Films (2011; DVD). Rental Price $60; Purchase Price $250*

**Lucky** (75 mins)

Friday 3:45 p.m.

*Lucky* is a portrait of a young Puerto Rican woman, a single mother, homeless, and struggling to find work, yet still passionately dreaming of true love and success. Filmed over six years, the film powerfully brings to light a myriad of social issues such as the flaws of foster care and social services, systemic poverty, urban blight, homelessness and LGBT discrimination.

*The Cinema Guild, (2014; DVD). Rental Price $125; Purchase Price $350*

**Madame Phung’s Last Journey** (87 mins)

Friday 2:15 p.m.

Where does theatre begin and real life end? Endearing Madame Phung and her transvestite singers travel around Vietnam, sparking fascination and hostility from the local people. Their fold-up fairground attractions include a lottery, a miniature train ride, an inflatable house, a merry-go-round, and a shotgun aimed treacherously at members while they are performing songs and sketches.

*Icarus Films (2014; DVD). Rental Price tba; Purchase Price $398*

**On Life’s Terms: Mothers in Recovery** (57 mins)

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Driven by the desire for custody of their children, five mothers struggle to overcome addiction in a gender responsive residential treatment program. Their intimate story reveals experiences with domestic violence. intergenerational substance use, prostitution and incarceration. The documentary interweaves the women's three year journey to transform their lives through self-sufficiency and new found pride with drug laws that impact mother and child, and will inspire hope for recovery.

*Pandora’s Box Productions (2014; DVD). Rental Price $95; Purchase Price $265*

**Red to White – A Family Member’s Story** (11 mins)

Friday 11:45 a.m.

*Red to White* is an autobiographical film short of a young woman in California describing her family’s experience unexpectedly entering a psychiatric ward. Told from the family member’s perspective, the film shares the emotions parents and other family members may face when a loved one is placed on a psychiatric hold.

*The Expression Project (2014; DVD). Rental Price – free to individuals, $5 per showing for institutions; Purchase Price – $15 for individuals, $40 for institutions. Proceeds will go towards funding compassion fatigue programs for mental health and nursing facility workers.*

**Romeo Romeo** (80 mins)

Friday 12:45 p.m.

*Romeo Romeo* is an intimate portrait of a modern marriage, following a young lesbian couple – Lexy and Jessica – on their quest to have a baby. Lexy is a natural nurturer and children’s choir teacher who has dreamed of motherhood since she was a little girl, whereas Jessica would never want to give birth herself but desperately wants to be a parent. As it becomes increasingly clear that getting pregnant will not be simple for them, the film becomes a rigorous documentation of the trials faced privately by over six and a half million American women - gay and straight - who struggle with infertility.

*GOOD DOCS (2013; DVD). Rental Price – Contact distributor; Purchase Price $250*

**School's Out - Lessons from a Forest Kindergarten** (36 mins)

**\*\*\*WINNER OF THE 2014 WPA FILM FESTIVAL\*\*\***

Thursday 8:15 p.m.

No classroom for these kindergarteners. In Switzerland's Langnau am Albis, a suburb of Zurich, children 4 to 7 years of age go to kindergarten in the woods every day, no matter what the weatherman says. This eye-opening film follows the forest kindergarten through the seasons of one school year and looks into the important question of what it is that children need at that age. There is laughter, beauty and amazement in the process of finding out.

*Bullfrog Films, (2013; DVD). Rental Price $75; Purchase Price $225*

**Secret Survivors** (40 mins)

Saturday 6:30 p.m.

Secret Survivors is a documentary film adapted from a theater project featuring adult survivors of child sexual abuse as they shared their painful, deeply personal stories on stage. The testimony from these survivors reflects a broad range of experiences and the many paths to healing and justice.

*Filmaker’s Library (2012; DVD, 3-year & perpetual streaming access also available). Rental Price n/a; Purchase Price $199*

**Seeking Asian Female** (53 mins)

Thursday 9:15 a.m.

*Seeking Asian Female* is a documentary about the unlikely romance of Steven and Jianhua (“Sandy”) - an American man obsessed with marrying any Asian woman and the Chinese woman half his age who agrees online to become his fiancée. Chinese American filmmaker Debbie documents everything, with skepticism and humor, from the early stages of Steven’s search through the moment Sandy steps foot in America for the first time, to a year into their precarious union. As these two online pen pals attempt to overcome vast differences in age, language and culture for the sake of a real-life marriage, the filmmaker’s role morphs from documentarian to translator to couple’s counselor. Steven and Sandy’s roller coaster relationship becomes more intimate and more human, ultimately becoming a strangely compelling love story for the ages.

*New Day Films (2013; DVD). Rental Price $50; Purchase Price $225/universities & colleges, $150/community groups, $95/public libraries*

**Somewhere Between** (88 mins)

Thursday 10:45 a.m.

When China passed its One Child Policy to limit population growth, an unexpected surge of abandoned baby girls started flowing into its orphanages. Since 1991, over 80,000 of those girls have been adopted by American families. While many adoption-focused documentaries give voice to adoptive parents, *Somewhere Between* explores the emotional and cultural impact of adoption from the point of view of four teenage girls, all adopted from China. This award winning film shares their personal journeys as these adoptees convey the experiences of a generation of young people attempting to reconcile their multiple identities while navigating the already perilous waters of American adolescence.

*GOOD DOCS (2012; DVD). Rental Price – Contact distributor; Purchase Price $349*

**Split: Divorce through Kids’ Eyes** (28 mins)

Thursday 10:15 a.m.

*Split* shares children's perspective on divorce - no adults, no experts … just kids speaking the powerful truth of what is on their minds and in their hearts as their families change**.** The film’sstyle is captivating and hip—with bold colors, vivid artwork and plainspoken testimony from the heart. The tone is constructive and proactive, reflecting a full range of emotions, *Split* helps neutralize the stigma and shame often associated with divorce and encourages children to express the many complex feelings they are often reluctant to share with parents, friends, and teachers. It provides divorcing parents much-needed insight into what their children are experiencing, and inspires them to address their children's feelings and concerns more directly and thoughtfully. *Split* has been embraced by leaders in the family courts, mental health professions, and K-12 schools as an essential tool to help the huge number of U.S. families weathering divorce do so in a more caring way.

*Bruno Films (2013; DVD). Rental Price n/a; Purchase Price $89/professional use, $198/universities & corporate use. Yearly streaming subscriptions available for university & professional use.*

**Suitcase of Love and Shame** (70 mins)

Saturday 8:15 p.m.

*Suitcase of Love and Shame* reconstructs a mesmerizing and erotic narrative from 60 hours of reel-to-reel audiotape discovered in a suitcase purchased on eBay. The film opens a remarkably rich dialogue about confession, exhibitionism, privacy and voyeurism.

*The Cinema Guild, (2013; DVD). Rental Price $125; Purchase Price $350*

**The Boy Game** (16 mins)

Thursday 9:00 a.m.

*The Boy Game* tackles bullying among boys at its core: The culture of toughness and silence boys live by. Targets need to be protected, absolutely, but rather than vilify bullies, *The Boy Game* looks to unpack the complex dynamics that lead some boys to bully and the majority to stand watching in silent conflict.

*New Day Films (2012; DVD, Blu-Ray). Rental Price $95; Purchase Price $300/universities, $200 community colleges*

**The Dark Side of a Pill** (59 mins)

Friday 9:30 a.m.

One in ten adults in the Western world is on antidepressants. But these wonder drugs have a dark side, and this film is a case-driven investigation into the connections between antidepressants and violence and suicide. This is a film about informed consent of medication and openly acknowledging the problems with a 20 billion dollar industry that affects the chemistry of the brain.

*Filmaker’s Library (2013; DVD, 3-year & perpetual streaming access also available). Rental Price n/a; Purchase Price $295*

**The Homestretch** (53 mins; 89 min version also available)

Saturday 9:30 a.m.

*The Homestretch* follows three homeless Detroit teens as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build a future. Each of these resilient, inspiring teenagers will surprise and challenge audiences to rethink stereotypes of homelessness as they work to complete their education while facing the trauma of being alone and abandoned at an early age. *The Homestretch* follows these kids as they move through the milestones of high school while navigating a landscape of couch hopping, emergency shelters, transitional homes, and a school system on the front lines of this crisis.

*Bullfrog Films (2014; DVD). Rental Price $95; Purchase Price $295*

**The Naked Room** (67 mins)

Friday 10:30 a.m.

*The Naked Room* takes place entirely within the confines of a pediatric therapist’s office in a Mexico City hospital, observing the initial consultations of a succession of deeply troubled kids, and brilliantly transforming this constricted space into a microcosm vast in its metaphorical dimensions. Not content to limit the physical scope of the film to the four walls of the therapist’s office, director Nuria Ibáñez focuses entirely on the faces of the children themselves, as they struggle to express their feelings of severe depression and trauma, and describe the situations that have brought them to this pass. Through the children’s expressions and gestures, *The Naked Room* paints a vivid picture of a society that inflicts its resentments and frustrations, its insecurities and sense of powerlessness, on those who are entirely unequipped to defend themselves, who have just begun the delicate process of understanding their world and forming their own identities.

*Magic Lantern (2013; DVD, Blu-Ray). Rental Price $89; Purchase Price $199*

**Torture Made in USA** (85 mins)

Sunday 8:45 a.m.

Exactly how did the world's most powerful democracy construct and implement a dubious legal framework pundits alike? Who exactly was behind this dark and hotly debated chapter in American history? Internationally acclaimed journalist and filmmaker Marie-Monique Robin set out to investigate the historic events and machinations of key policy leaders that led the U.S. to use systematic torture on a massive scale in Afghanistan, Guantanamo and Iraq.

*Bullfrog Films (2010; DVD). Rental Price $95; Purchase Price $295*

**Vulva 3.0** (52 mins)

Saturday 7:15 p.m.

With their comprehensive and unflustered research into the history of this particular aspect of the female anatomy in the 21st century, the directors shed light on every facet of the matter in hand, from sex education to censorship, from the airbrushing of ‘misshapen’ labia in pornographic images to the work of activists against female genital mutilation—and, in doing so, celebrate the diversity of the female body.

*Icarus Films (2014; DVD). Rental Price tba; Purchase Price $390*

**When I Came Home** (70 mins)

Thursday 2:30 p.m.

Winner of the NY Loves Film Best Documentary Award at the Tribeca Film Festival, *When I Came Home* follows the struggles of Herold Noel, an Iraq war veteran who becomes homeless in New York City after returning from combat with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Focusing on Herold's struggle with the VA and city agencies to find the help he needs, *When I Came Home* exposes a failing system and reveals the "second war" that many veterans must fight after they return home.

*New Day Films (2006; DVD). Rental Price $99; Purchase Price $249*

**Where am I?** (44 mins)

Thursday 12:15 p.m.

*Where am I?* explores the strategies we use to figure out where we are - and where we are going. Whether you are an Inuit hunter, a foraging insect, or just someone out for a stroll, your brain is performing one of its most fundamental services: navigation. Why are some of us good at finding our way, while others are not? Several experts weigh in, including psychologist Nora Newcombe; neuroscientists Giuseppe Iaria, Sue Becker, Hugo Spiers, and Véronique Bohbot; geographer and behaviorist Dan Montello; roboticist and biologist Michael Mangan; and psychologist Colin Ellard.

*Bullfrog Films (2013; DVD). Rental Price $85; Purchase Price $250*