



# Welcome to First Time Fest: *The Second Edition!*

**We are thrilled that you are joining us for this extraordinary event celebrating first time films and filmmakers.**

Six years ago, we were discussing our dissatisfaction with the way show business works and we thought that we could do something about it. We ended up conceiving a festival with a Grand Prize of theatrical distribution and international sales representation for a first time feature-length film – not knowing that it had never been done before.

Last year, we launched our festival. We couldn't have been more gratified by the outpouring of support and participation from filmmakers, the entertainment industry and an unparalleled group of special guests, including Martin Scorsese, Darren Aronofsky, Tony Bennett, Jack Huston, Harry Belafonte, Michael Shannon, Ellen Burstyn, Amy Ryan, Sofia Coppola, Anthony Rapp, Ed Lachman, Todd Solondz, Hal Hartley, Barbara Kopple, Melvin Van Peebles, Nancy Savoca, Mary Engel, Christine Vachon, Jenny Lumet, Gay Talese, Fred Schneider and so many more. And we now offer theatrical distribution for our winning film through our partner, Cinema Libre Studio.

You, the public, are an essential part of this experience – you are the “fifth judge” at our first-time competition and an important part of awarding our Grand Prize.

Please join us for our **First Exposure** series: presenting first films of renowned filmmakers, whose creators share their experiences and who are then invited to mentor our first timers.

We have speakers and panels each day as part of our **How They Did It** series at our new home base, NeueHouse, that will excite, astound and educate you. And plan to be wowed on our Closing Night as we present our *John Huston Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cinema*.

**Thank you so much for being here. Enjoy the show!**

*Johanna Bennett and Mandy Ward, Co-Founders  
First Time Fest*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome .....	2
NeueHouse .....	4
Cinema Libre Studio .....	5
John Huston Award .....	6
Julie Taymor .....	7
Opening Night: Paris Is Burning .....	8
Competition Films.....	9-19
FTF Schedule .....	20-21
<i>First Exposure</i> Films .....	22-29
Special Screening: <i>See you Next Tuesday</i> .....	30
Special Screening: <i>Nothing Left To Fear</i> .....	31
FTF Presents: How They Did It .....	32-34
FTF Presents: Stand Alone! .....	35
Staff & Board of Directors .....	36
Board of Advisors & Special Thanks .....	37
Festival Map.....	38
Sponsors .....	39



## NeueHouse

A workspace. A social space. A mind space.

**First Time Fest** is pleased to have an extraordinary new host venue.

From the modernist 'machine for living' to the post-modernist 'machine for creating' NeueHouse is a private membership work collective catering to solopreneurs and teams of up to ten people in film, design, fashion, publishing, the arts and tech. It is built on a set of ideas that inspire creativity, collaboration and commerce. The team at NeueHouse have built a space – including studios, offices, a gallery, library and screening room – where work life and social life can coalesce, naturally and productively.





## **FIRST TIME FEST - CINEMA LIBRE STUDIO**

### **Festival Grand Prize – The Ultimate Audience Award**

First Time Fest is offering something unique in the world of film festivals: our Grand Prize winning film will be the recipient of a guaranteed theatrical release by Cinema Libre Studio. The winner is chosen by our distinguished jury along with our in-theater audience (the Ultimate Audience Award). Distribution plans include two major cities (New York and Los Angeles), with the option for platform expansion as well as DVD, digital release and international sales representation.

Cinema Libre Studio is a leader in distributing social-issue documentaries and features by passionate filmmakers. Headquartered in Los Angeles, the Cinema Libre team has released over one hundred films including the Sundance Audience Award-winning *Fuel*, *The End of Poverty?*, and Oliver Stone's *South of the Border*. The studio is developing John Perkins' best-selling memoir, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, into a major motion picture. For more information and updates, please visit: [www.cinemalibrestudio.com](http://www.cinemalibrestudio.com)



## JOHN HUSTON AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CINEMA

First Time Fest is proud to present its second **John Huston Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cinema** to Julie Taymor. John Huston, called “the eccentric’s eccentric” by Paul Newman, was an extraordinary actor, director, writer and producer who created some of the most memorable films in cinema history. His first movie – which made Humphrey Bogart a star – was the inestimable *The Maltese Falcon*. He went on to direct such films as *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, *Key Largo*, *The African Queen*, *The Asphalt Jungle*, *The Red Badge of Courage*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Moby Dick*, *The Unforgiven*, *The Misfits*, *Freud*, *The Night Of The Iguana*, *Fat City*, *The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean*, *The Man Who Would Be King*, *Under the Volcano*, *Prizzis Honor* and *The Dead*, and gave memorable performances in films like *Casino Royale*, *Myra Breckinridge* and *Chinatown*.

Huston won two Academy Awards and was nominated for thirteen more, and was the recipient of the American Film Institute’s Life Achievement Award. He was also an ardent supporter of human rights. Along with director William Wyler and others, he formed the Committee for the First Amendment in 1947, which strove to undermine the House Un-American Activities Committee.

## JULIE TAYMOR



**Julie Taymor is one of the most adventurous directors working today,** known for her visionary work on stage and screen. She was a recipient of the MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship and has won two Tony Awards – including Best Director – for *The Lion King*, which is the highest grossing Broadway show of all time. Her most recent stage triumph was the production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the Theater for a New Audience.

Taymor is also an accomplished director of opera, with productions including an astounding realization of Stravinsky’s *Oedipus Rex* (broadcast on PBS) in Matsumoto, Japan; *The Magic Flute* for the Metropolitan Opera and *The Flying Dutchman* and Elliot Goldenthal’s *Grendel* for the LA Opera.

Taymor made an astonishing debut as a film director with her adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Titus* (screening on Friday at FTF), starring Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange, and has directed three other films: *Frida* – the story of Mexican artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, starring Salma Hayek and Alfred Molina (which earned six Oscar nominations and won two); *Across the Universe*, a phantasmagorical musical featuring the music of the Beatles that was a Golden Globe nominee for Best Picture; and *The Tempest* – her second cinematic reinvention of Shakespeare – starring Helen Mirren as Prospera. With her boundless imagination and originality, she is the ideal recipient of our **John Huston Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cinema.**

# O P E N I N G N I G H T F I L M

## PARIS IS BURNING – Jennie Livingston in person

Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.

US | Documentary | 78 Minutes | 1991

Preceded by **WHO'S THE TOP?**



Director & Producer: Jennie Livingston

**Director and Producer:** Jennie Livingston **Cinematographer:** Paul Gibson, Maryse Alberti **Editor:** Jonathan Oppenheim **Cast:** Dorian Corey, Pepper LaBeija, Willi Ninja, Octavia St. Laurent, Angie Xtravaganza, Venus Xtravaganza

**Synopsis:** A watershed document of New York City queer culture, *Paris is Burning* depicts the thriving drag ballroom scene of the late 1980s. Chockfull of fabulously fascinating characters, the film also reveals the prejudices and hardships a minority subculture faces in its attempt to express its identity through alternate forms of expression. The influence of the film extends beyond cinema: “voguing” sky-rocketed to popularity after its release. Jennie Livingston’s 2005 short film *Who’s the Top* (2005, 22 mins. with Marin Hinkle, Brigitte Bako, Steve Buscemi) is a “fantastical S/M musical comedy” which asks: does love fall apart because sex stops working, or does sex stop working because love falls apart?”

**Filmmaker Bio:** Jennie Livingston’s debut *Paris is Burning* won the 1991 Sundance Grand Jury Prize, the New York Film Critics Circle award for Best Documentary and according to *Variety* is one of the most successful documentaries of all time. She is currently working on a new work of creative non-fiction, *Earth Camp One*.





# X



## **FTF** ***INTERNATIONAL*** **COMPETITION**

The competition lineup for First Time Fest boasts a diverse and exciting lineup of filmmaking debuts, with ten accomplished and exciting fiction and documentary feature films from Germany, Israel, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and the United States. Some have played to acclaim at international film festivals, some are premieres. Submissions were open to feature-length films made with first-time directors, producers, writers, cinematographers, editors or composers. First Time Fest was created in the hopes of discovering new talent and helping these films find an audience beyond the traditional festival circuit. The Grand Prize winner will receive theatrical distribution from Cinema Libre Studio and a trip to Norway and Sweden, courtesy of our new partner, Scandanavian Locations, to spend a week at a writer's cottage in Northern Sweden working on their next project. There is tremendous talent on display in these debut works, and the promise of many great films to come.

# 1982

Friday, April 4, 4:00 PM

USA | 2013 | Fiction | 89 minutes | New York Premiere



**Writer, Director and Producer:** Tommy Oliver

**Cinematographer:** Daniel Vecchione

**Editors:** Tovah Leibowitz, Tommy Oliver

**Composer:** John Jennings Boyd

**Cast:** Hill Harper, Sharon Leal, Troi Zee, Wayne Brady, La La Anthony

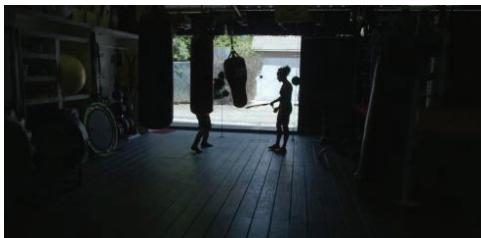
A vivid family drama set in Philadelphia at the onset of the crack epidemic, *1982* follows a father's efforts to protect his 10-year-old daughter from her drug-addicted mother, while trying to steer her towards recovery. Hill Harper's performance as the father is revelatory, and the film percolates with steadily building naturalism and intimacy. Winner of the grand prize at the U.S. in Progress Showcase in Paris, *1982* premiered to great acclaim at the Toronto Film Festival.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Tommy Oliver is a Philadelphia-based producer and cinematographer who graduated from Carnegie Mellon University. He produced the 2011 film *Kinyarwanda*, which was on Roger Ebert's list of the year's top ten movies. The film *1982* is set and was shot in the West Oak Lane house in Philadelphia where he grew up.

# BITTERSWEET

Sunday, April 6, 5:30 PM

Netherlands | 2014 | Documentary | 70 Minutes | U.S. Premiere



Director & Producer: Marieke Niestadt

**Director and Producer:** Marieke Niestadt

**Cinematographer:** Marieke Niestadt

**Editor:** Marieke Niestadt

**Composers:** Andre van der Hoff, Toia Nieuwenhuizen

**Cast:** Diana Prazak, Lucia Rijker

Move over *Rocky*. In Marieke Niestadt's exciting documentary, the Australian boxer Diana Prazik accepts a seemingly impossible challenge: a match with World Champion Frida Wallberg. The undefeated champion is a beautiful blonde, a favorite of media and sponsors. Prazik has little more going for her than her fearless passion and her secret weapon, the Los Angeles trainer and six-time world champion Lucia Rijker. The mentor-student relationship between them becomes the heart of the film, but the drama of the fight itself is thrilling. Even if you've seen a hundred sports movies, you'll be stunned by the unexpected finale.

**Filmmaker Bios:** Marieke Niestadt was a model and host for major Dutch TV networks who decided that she wanted to be on the other side of the camera. She shoots and directs, specializing in behind-the-scenes films and showing a rare ability to capture her subjects as they are – truly up close and personal.

# BUTTER ON THE LATCH

Sunday, April 6, 9:00 PM  
USA | 2013 | Documentary | 78 min



Writer, Director, Editor:  
Josephine Decker

**Writer, Director, Editor:** Josephine Decker

**Producers:** Rachel Wolther, Laura Heberton

**Cinematographer:** Ashley Connor

**Cast:** Sarah Small, Isold Chae-Lawrence, Charlie Hewson

**Synopsis:** After a personal breakdown, a Brooklyn performance artist and her friend head to California to immerse themselves in a rustic camp atmosphere and learn folk music and dance. But the intended escape devolves into a psychosexual drama that pushes their friendship – and sanity – to the edge. *Butter on the Latch* had its international premiere at the 2014 Berlin Film Festival, with Decker's second film, *Thou Wast Mild and Lovely*. This vivid debut film is made with a restless, almost dreamlike energy.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Starting her filmmaking career as a documentary producer, Josephine Decker is a performance artist, musician and actor who appeared in three films directed by Joe Swanberg: *Uncle Kent*, *Art History*, and *Autoerotic*. After making her debut, *Butter on the Latch*, she directed her second film, *Thou Wast Mild and Lovely*, which is playing at film festivals around the world.

# CLASS ENEMY (RAZREDNI SOVRAZNIK)

Sunday, April 6, 11:00 AM

Slovenia | 2013 | Fiction | 112 min | New York Premiere



Writer and Director: Rok Bicek

**Director:** Rok Bicek **Writers:** Nejc Gazvoda, Rok Bicek, Janez Lapajne

**Producers:** Janez Lapajne, Aiken Veronika

**Cinematographer:** Fabio Stoll **Music:** Frédéric Chopin

**Editors:** Rok Bicek, Janez Lapajne **Cast:** Igor Samobor, Natasa Barbara Gracner, Tjasa Zeleznik, Masa Derganc, Robert Prebi

**Synopsis:** An impressively crafted and slow-burning drama that unfolds like a thriller, Rok Bicek's sharply observed film follows a group of high-school students who rally against their demanding new German professor following the suicide of one of their classmates. An undercurrent of tension and potential violence runs through the film, which combines intimate closeups and widescreen compositions. The film premiered at the 2013 Venice Film Festival and was Slovenia's official entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars.

**Filmmaker Bio:** After graduating from the University of Ljubljana, Rok Bicek became a star student at PoEtika, an academy for researching the art of film directing run by the prominent Slovenian director Janez Lapajne. Bicek was an award-winning student filmmaker before making his debut feature, *Class Enemy*.

# FALL TO RISE

Saturday, April 5, 8:00 PM

USA | 2014 | Fiction | 100 Minutes | World Premiere



Writer and Director:  
Jayce Bartok

**Writer and Director:** Jayce Bartok

**Producers:** Tiffany Bartok, Patrick Morris, Daniela Schrier

**Cinematographer:** Kate Phelan **Editors:** Alex Kopit, Ali Muneay

**Cast:** Katherine Crockett, Daphne Rubin-Vega, Desmond Richardson, Tamara Tunie

**Synopsis:** This engaging, richly textured drama follows a renowned principal dancer whose injury forces her out of her company and uncomfortably into the role of motherhood. She realizes that her identity depends on dance and she struggles to return with the help of another former company dancer. With its star turns by ballerina Katherine Crockett (featured in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*) and the acclaimed actress Daphne Rubin-Vega, this is a timeless tale with a distinctly New York flavor, revealing the conflict between art and life, between marriage and independence.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Jayce Bartok appeared as an actor in Richard Linklater's *SubUrbia*, Sam Raimi's *Spiderman* and Tom McCarthy's *The Station Agent*. His feature screenwriting debut, *The Cake Eaters*, was directed by Mary Stuart Masterson. He has directed short films, including *Sunburn*, *Jack and Paul* and *Stricken*.

# FAREWELL, HERR SCHWARZ (Schnee von gersten)

Friday, April 4, 1:00 PM

Germany/Israel | 2014 | Documentary | 97 Minutes



**Writer and Director:** Yael Reuveny

**Producer:** Melanie Andernach

**Cinematographer:** Andreas Köhler

**Editor:** Nicole Kortlüke, Assaf Lopid

**Composer:** Hauschka

**Synopsis:** A brother and sister survive the concentration camps but are separated in 1945. She migrated to the Middle East; he returned to Germany, where he became a Communist and lived near the camp where he was imprisoned. Their grandchildren are haunted by family secrets; the two families, in Germany and Israel – not knowing each other for years – are strangely mirrored. Yael Reuveny's epic documentary is a journey spanning three generations, two countries and one fateful decision.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Born and raised in Israel, where she studied filmmaking, the Berlin-based documentarian Yael Reuveny has made a number of short documentaries, including films for the Jewish Museum in Berlin and the half-hour *Tales of the Defeated*, a personal journey through family and Jewish history.

# GETTING TO THE NUTCRACKER

Sunday, April 6, 2:30 PM

USA | 2013 | Documentary | 98 Minutes | New York Premiere



Writer and Director: Serene Meshel-Dillman

**Writer and Director:** Serene Meshel-Dillman

**Producer:** Ray Dillman

**Cinematographer:** Arseni Khachatryan

**Editor:** Brian George

**Synopsis:** Every year, *The Nutcracker* is performed by ballet companies around the world. Serene Meshel-Dillman's lovingly crafted documentary shows us inside the immense effort involved in gathering the resources, assembling the volunteers, casting the dancers and rehearsing and staging the performances of this classic ballet. Taking us inside the Los Angeles-based Marat Daukayev School of Ballet, the film shares the auditions, the rigorous rehearsals, and the joys and pains of the ever-passionate and endearing young dancers, who give their everything to the ballet.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Serene Meshel-Dillman was a student at the New York City Ballet's School of American Ballet while Jill Krentz was there creating her famous photography book, *A Very Young Dancer*. Meshel-Dillman continued to dance while learning photography, and then became a producer of television commercials. Her feature debut, *Getting to the Nutcracker*, was inspired by Krentz's book.



# LOVE STEAKS

Saturday, April 5, 4:00 PM

Germany | 2013 | Fiction | 89 Minutes | US Premiere



Editor: Gesa Jäger

**Director:** Jakob Lass

**Writer:** Jakob Lass, Ines Schiller, Timon Schaeppi, Nico Woche

**Producer:** Ines Schiller, Golo Schultz

**Cinematographer:** Timon Schaeppi

**Editor:** Gesa Jäger **Composer:** Golo Schultz

**Cast:** Lana Cooper, Franz Rogowski

**Synopsis:** Infused with the chaotic energy of its main character, Lara – an alcoholic chef at a luxury hotel – *Love Steaks* is an unbridled delight; an unlikely love story that erupts as sparks fly between the fiery Lara and a sensitive masseur named Clemens. Gleefully provocative and as deliberately off-key as Lara's guitar-playing, this black comedy was filmed in an improvisatory style amidst a real hotel staff. *Love Steaks* was the winner of the Lions Film Award at the Rotterdam Film Festival.

**Filmmaker Bio:** First time editor Gesa Jäger completed specialist training for both film and news editing at Norddeutscher Rundfunk in Hamburg, before graduating with a Masters of Fine Art from the HFF Potsdam-Babelsberg. She is currently at work on her own feature film, *Happy Hour*.

# MISS JULIE

Saturday, April 5, 1:00 PM

Sweden | 2013 | Fiction | 85 Minutes | US Premiere



Writer and Director: Mikael Berg

**Writer and Director:** Mikael Berg **Producer:** Mattias Dimfelt  
**Cinematographer:** Erik Hassel **Editor:** Rasmus Tirzitis  
**Composer:** Mark Ambervill **Cast:** Nathalie Söderqvist, Klas Ekegren,  
Lina Englund, Görel Crona, Michelle Meadows

**Synopsis:** Transporting August Strindberg's 19th-century play about lust, love, class and the battle of the sexes to a 1920s country mansion, this impressive period film proves this classic drama is as timely as ever. *Miss Julie* has recently broken her engagement to her wealthy fiancé; her father was relying on the new groom to rescue the family from their financial troubles. One Midsummer night eve, with her father out of town, *Miss Julie* and her best friend throw a party for their friends; on the same day, a newly hired servant arrives, and it quickly becomes clear he is looking for more than a job. Lushly photographed and with beautifully calibrated performances, *Miss Julie* builds in tension until its shattering finale.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Mikael Berg is a Swedish writer and director whose previous work includes the short film *Amalia*, a 19th-century romantic drama about a recently widowed woman with three romantic suitors.

# THE SLEEPWALKER

Friday, April 4, 7:30 PM

Norway/USA | 2014 | Fiction | 92 minutes | NY Premiere



**Director:** Mona Fastvold **Writer:** Mona Fastvold, Brady Corbet

**Producers:** Karin Julsrud, Turid Øversveen **Cinematographer:** Zachary Galler

**Editors:** Jon Endre Mørk, Michael Mazzotta

**Composers:** Sondre Lerche, Kato Ådland

**Cast:** Gitte Witt, Christopher Abbott, Brady Corbet, Stephanie Ellis

**Synopsis:** Kaia and her boyfriend Andrew are enjoying a quiet, secluded life while restoring her late father's rural Massachusetts estate. Their tranquility is shattered by the unexpected arrival of her sister, Christine, and her affluent fiancé, Ira. The sisters' troubled family history begins to unravel as tensions mount between the two men, and this chamber piece modulates into a searing thriller. *The Sleepwalker* premiered in competition at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Mona Fastvold is a Paris and Oslo-based writer and director who has made many acclaimed music videos. In 2012, she received a grant from the Norwegian Film Institute to support her directorial debut, *The Sleepwalker*, which was written with Brady Corbet. They are currently prepping Corbet's directorial debut, *The Childhood of a Leader*, which they co-wrote, and which stars Juliette Binoche and Robert Pattinson.

**THURSDAY APRIL 3**

**FRIDAY APRIL 4**

**SAT 4/5**

**LOEWS 3**

**NEUE HOUSE**

**LOEWS 2**

**LOEWS 3**

**NEUE HOUSE**

**NH SCREENING**

**LOEWS 2**

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**7:30**  
OPENING NIGHT  
**PARIS IS BURNING**

**4:30**  
RBC  
WOMEN  
IN  
ENTERTAINMENT

**10:00**  
OPENING  
NIGHT  
PARTY  
LOCATION  
TBD

**1:00**  
FAREWELL,  
HERR  
SCHWARZ

**4:00**  
1982

**7:30**  
THE  
SLEEPWALKER

**7:00**  
TITUS

**2:00**  
WHAT'S UP,  
DOC?

**4:30**  
HELP ME  
HELP YOU

**4:00**  
SALESMAN

**1:00**  
MISS  
JULIE

**4:00**  
LOVE  
STEAKS

**8:00**  
FALL TO  
RISE

**COMPETITION FILMS**

**FIRST EXPOSURE**

**PANEL**

**STAND ALONE**

**SPECIAL  
SCREENING**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**SATURDAY APRIL 5**

**SUNDAY APRIL 6**

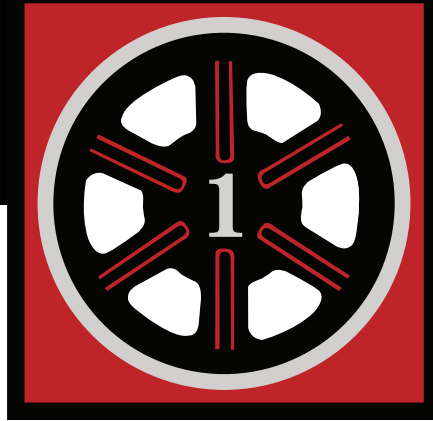
**MON 4/7**

	LOEWS 3	NEUE HOUSE	NH SCREENING	LOEWS 2	LOEWS 3	NEUE HOUSE	NEUE HOUSE	
11		11:00 SHOW ME THE MONEY		11:00 CLASS ENEMY				11
12					12:00 FINGERS	12:00 THE CRITICAL EYE		12
1	12:30 ROGER & ME							1
2								2
3		2:30 WE NEED A BIGGER BOAT		2:30 GETTING TO THE NUTCRACKER	3:00 TARGETS	3:00 SELL BABY, SELL	3:00 FILMMAKER FORUM	3
4	3:30 STAND ALONE MICHAEL MOORE				4:30 STAND ALONE PETER BOGDANOVICH	3-5 THE GRAMMY'S PRESENTS FROM ROCK TO SCORE		4
5			4:30 RIVER OF GRASS					5
6	6:00 ERASERHEAD			5:30 BITTERSWEET	6:00 TBD			6
7								7
8							7:00	8
9	9:00 SEE YOU NEXT TUESDAY			9:00 BUTTER ON THE LATCH			CLOSING NIGHT AWARDS GALA	9
10								10
11	MIDNIGHT HORROR 11:30 NOTHING LEFT TO FEAR						LOCATION TBD	11



**AMC Loews Village VII** 66 3rd Ave, New York, NY 10003  
**NeueHouse** 110 East 25th Street, New York, NY 10010

Times are subject to change.  
 Please check [www.FirstTimeFest.com](http://www.FirstTimeFest.com) for the latest updates.



## **FIRST EXPOSURE**

There is something special about first films; while they are often filled with the energy and experimentation of youth, they are also embryonic in nature. The themes and preoccupations of a director can often be seen in their debut films, to be refined and reexamined in later work. First Time Fest celebrates these efforts. *First Exposure* is a selection of great first films by prominent directors and actors, followed by conversations with their makers.

# ERASERHEAD – Cinematographer Frederick Elmes in person

Saturday, April 5, 6:00 PM

USA | 1977 | Fiction | 85 minutes



**Writer/Director/Producer/Editor/Composer:** David Lynch

**Cinematographer:** Frederick Elmes

**Cast:** Jack Nance, Charlotte Stewart

**Synopsis:** A surrealist horror film, an urban-decay nightmare, an expressionistic mind-melt and a pitch-black comedy, *Eraserhead* is David Lynch's astonishing debut film, a nightmarish movie about a zombielike loner. Beautifully filmed in black-and-white in a startling feature debut by the cinematographer Frederick Elmes, it is filled with astonishing sights – and sounds – from the dirge of Fats Waller organ music to the haunting sound design by Alan Splet. It instantly established David Lynch as a cinematic visionary, and Frederick Elmes as a gifted cinematographer.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Frederick Elmes, one of the most accomplished cinematographers in contemporary cinema, has collaborated with some of America's most significant independent filmmakers, including Ang Lee (*The Ice Storm*, *Hulk*), Jim Jarmusch (*Night on Earth*, *Broken Flowers*), Mira Nair (*The Namesake*), Bill Condon (*Kinsey*) and Charlie Kaufman (*Synecdoche, New York*). His second collaboration with David Lynch was the astounding *Blue Velvet*.

# FINGERS – James Toback in person

Sunday, April 6, 12:00 PM

US | 1977 | Fiction | 85 minutes



Writer and Director: James Toback

**Writer and Director:** James Toback

**Producer:** George Barrie

**Cinematographer:** Michael Chapman

**Editor:** Robert Lawrence

**Cast:** Harvey Keitel, Tisa Farrow, Jim Brown, Michael Gazzo, Marian Seldes

**Synopsis:** James Toback's directorial debut is a riveting and idiosyncratic film from the tail end of the 1970s New American Cinema. Provocatively throwing together contradictory elements from high and low culture, *Fingers* serves as an atmospheric time capsule of pre-gentrification lower Manhattan. Harvey Keitel stars as an aspiring classical pianist who gets tangled in a dark world of crime with his gangster father while trying to cope with his mentally disturbed concert pianist mother. Former football star Jim Brown's appearance as an insatiable stud reflects Toback's fascination with racial and sexual taboos.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Harvard graduate and former literature professor James Toback is a true maverick filmmaker, boldly exploring the extremes of human behavior in fearless and entertaining films such as *Black and White*, *Tyson* and *The Big Bang*. His recent film, *Seduced and Abandoned*, made with Alec Baldwin, is at once a celebration and satire of the world of filmmaking.



# IN A WORLD – *Lake Bell in person*

Sunday, April 6, 6:00 PM

USA | 2013 | Fiction | 93 Minutes



Writer and Director: Lake Bell

**Writer and Director:** Lake Bell

**Producers:** Lake Bell, David Grace, Mark Roberts, Jett Steiger, Eddie Vaisman

**Cinematographer:** Seamus Tierney **Editor:** Tom McArdle

**Composer:** Ryan Miller

**Cast:** Lake Bell, Fred Melamed, Rod Corrdry, Eva Longoria, Demetri Martin

**Synopsis:** A struggling voice coach tries to make it in the world of movie trailer voice-overs, only to find herself competing for work against her father. In her directorial debut, Lake Bell proves herself to be a triple-threat – as writer, director and star – in a sharply observed film that has a much to say about gender roles, the entertainment industry and family relationships. The film won the covered Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award at Sundance, which cited “its laugh out loud comedic moments, its memorably drawn characters, and its shrewd social commentary.”

**Filmmaker Bio:** Lake Bell starred in three television series: *The Practice*, *Miss Match* and *Boston Legal*, before beginning a film career that includes such films as *No Strings Attached* and *What Happens in Vegas*. *In a World...* premiered to rave reviews at the Sundance Film Festival. Lake Bell co-stars with Jon Hamm in the upcoming film *Million Dollar Arm*.

# RIVER OF GRASS – Kelly Reichardt and Larry Fessenden in person

Saturday, April 5, 4:30 PM

USA | 1994 | Fiction | 100 minutes



Writer and Director: Kelly Reichardt

**Director:** Kelly Reichardt

**Writers:** Kelly Reichardt, Jesse Hartman

**Producers:** Larry Fessenden, Jesse Hartman

**Cinematographer:** Jim Denault

**Editor:** Larry Fessenden **Composer:** John Hill

**Cast:** Larry Fessenden, Lisa Bowman

**Synopsis:** In Kelly Reichardt's ultra-low-budget debut film, a 30-year-old mother takes off with a drifter, leaving her children and husband behind. The pair become a hapless would-be Bonnie and Clyde, stumbling through a sterile South Florida landscape. The film announced Reichardt's laconic, observational style, her interest in social misfits and outsiders and her incisive understanding of the American landscape. Critic Jonathan Rosenbaum called it "a canny, contemporary portrait of shiftlessness."

**Filmmaker Bio:** Kelly Reichardt's films, which include *Old Joy*, *Wendy and Lucy*, *Meek's Cutoff* and the upcoming *Night Moves*, are among the most richly textured and keenly observant works in contemporary cinema. Reichardt delves deep into landscapes – human and natural – finding poetry through a precise, distilled approach rooted in realism. She often evokes popular movie genres, including road movies, buddy films and Westerns, only to subvert them.

# ROGER & ME – Michael Moore in person

Saturday, April 5, 12:30 PM

USA | 1989 | Documentary | 91 minutes



Writer and Director: Michael Moore

**Writer and Director:** Michael Moore

**Producers:** Michael Moore, Wendy Stanzle

**Cinematographers:** Chris Beaver, John Prusak, Kevin Rafferty, Bruce Schermer

**Editors:** Jennifer Berman White, Wendy Stanzler

**Synopsis:** To show the impact of General Motors CEO Roger Smith's decision to close auto plants in Flint, Michigan, costing 30,000 people their jobs, Michael Moore decided to make a film about his attempts to confront Smith face-to-face. The result is an alternately scathing, brilliant and hilarious document of Reagan-era economic distress. Released by Warner Bros., the film became a critical and commercial success, turning Moore into a prominent social critic and political activist, as well as a major filmmaker.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Born in Flint, Michigan, Michael Moore was an investigative journalist who founded the alternative weekly *The Flint Voice* and became editor of *Mother Jones* before becoming one of the most influential documentary filmmakers of all time, with films such as *Bowling for Columbine*, *Sicko*, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, *Capitalism: A Love Story* and the TV series *TV Nation*, *The Awful Truth* and *Michael Moore Live*.

# SALESMAN – Albert Maysles in person

Friday, April 4, 4:00 PM

USA | 1969 | Documentary | 85 Minutes



Director, Producer &  
Cinematographer:  
Albert Maysles

**Directors:** Albert & David Maysles, Charlotte Zwerin

**Producers:** Albert & David Maysles

**Cinematographer:** Albert Maysles

**Editor:** David Maysles & Charlotte Zwerin

**Cast:** Paul Brennan, Charles McDevitt, James Baker, Raymond Martos

**Synopsis:** As gripping, bracing, and bleak a portrait of broken American dreams as Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, Albert Maysles's *cinéma vérité* classic follows four door-to-door Bible salesman as they travel from Webster, Massachusetts to Opa-Locka, Florida, trying to convince lonely widows, married couples, Cuban immigrants, bored housewives and others to shell out \$50 for "the best seller in the world." The salesmen, nicknamed "The Badger," "The Gipper," "The Rabbit" and "The Bull" for their selling styles, are unforgettable real-life Willy Lomans. "Eloquent and genuinely funny. No other land could have imaginably produced this picture." (*The New Yorker*).

**Filmmaker Bio:** Albert Maysles and his brother David (1932-1987) are widely recognized as the pioneers of Direct Cinema, making groundbreaking non-fiction features in which the drama of human life unfolds as is – without scripts, sets, or narration. Among the many classic films they made are *Grey Gardens* and *Gimme Shelter*. Albert Maysles continues to make films, with recent works including *The Love We Make*, *More Than a Paycheck: America's Hardest Workers* and *Muhammad and Larry*.

# THE STATION AGENT – Tom McCarthy in person

Sunday, April 6, 8:30 PM

USA | 2003 | Fiction | 89 Minutes



Writer and Director: Thomas McCarthy

**Writer and Director:** Thomas McCarthy

**Producers:** : Mary Jane Skalski, Kathryn Tucker, Joshua Zeman

**Cinematographer:** Oliver Bokelberg **Editor:** Tom McArdle

**Composer:** Stephen Trask

**Cast:** Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson, Bobby Cannavale, Michelle Williams

**Synopsis:** An enchanting filmmaking debut, *The Station Agent* is a comic drama about Finbar McBride, a dwarf (played by the great Peter Dinklage) who moves to rural New Jersey – hoping to live a life of solitude after his best friend dies. Instead, he meets an overly talkative hotdog vendor (Bobby Cannavale), a woman who is also dealing with loss (the inimitable Patricia Clarkson), and a lovely librarian (Michelle Williams). According to Roger Ebert, “this is a comedy, but it’s also sad, and finally it’s simply a story about trying to figure out what you love to do and then trying to figure out how to do it.”

**Filmmaker Bio:** Thomas McCarthy is a versatile writer, director and actor who was nominated for a Best Original Screenplay Oscar for the Pixar film *Up*. As a writer and director, he has made three of the most acclaimed independent films of the past decade: *The Station Agent*, *The Visitor* (starring Richard Jenkins) and *Win Win* (starring Paul Giamatti and Amy Ryan).

# TARGETS – Peter Bogdanovich in person

Sunday, April 6, 3:00 PM

USA | 1968 | Fiction | 90 minutes



Producer/Writer/Editor/  
Director: Albert Maysles

**Producer/Writer/Editor/Director:** Peter Bogdanovich

**Cinematographer:** László Kovács

**Cast:** Tim O'Kelly, Boris Karloff, Arthur Peterson

**Synopsis:** An ingenious and resourceful low-budget black-and-white genre film, Peter Bogdanovich's feature debut is the final film appearance of the legendary Boris Karloff. Karloff plays an aging horror film star who decides to retire because of the violence of modern life – who then becomes the target of a psychotic killer with a long-range rifle. The film was financed by Roger Corman, who was owed two days of filming by Karloff from a previous production. Bogdanovich shot the film in fifteen days with a \$125,000 budget.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Peter Bogdanovich began his career as an actor and went on to be a writer, film critic and MoMA film programmer in the early 1960s. After a brief apprenticeship with Roger Corman, he quickly became one of America's most prominent screenwriters and directors, with films including *The Last Picture Show*, *Paper Moon* and *Mask*. He is currently in post-production on *Squirrels to the Nuts*, starring Jennifer Aniston, Imogen Poots and Will Forte.

# TITUS – Julie Taymor and Elliot Goldenthal in person

Friday, April 4, 7:00 PM

USA | Fiction | 1999 | 162 minutes



**Director:** Julie Taymor

**Producers:** Conchita Airoldi, Jody Allen, Adam Leipzig, Julie Taymor, Michiyo Yoshizaki

**Writer:** Julie Taymor, adapted from *Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare

**Cinematographer:** Luciano Tovoli **Production Designer:** Dante Ferretti

**Composer:** Elliot Goldenthal

**Cast:** Anthony Hopkins, Jessica Lange, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Alan Cumming

**Synopsis:** Shakespeare's first tragedy – a shockingly violent and bloody revenge drama set during the late days of the Roman empire – is the source for Julie Taymor's debut film. An astonishing and ambitious spectacle set during multiple historical eras, *Titus* is filled with the free-spirited inventiveness that defines her work on stage. In his rave review, Roger Ebert described it as "a brilliant and absurd film that goes over the top, doubles back, and then goes over the top again."

**Filmmaker Bio:** Stage and screen director Julie Taymor, whose most recent triumph was her production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Theatre for a New Audience, is one of the most inventive directors of our time. Winner of two Tony Awards for *The Lion King*, she has directed four feature films: *Titus*, *Frida*, *Across the Universe* and *The Tempest*.

# SPECIAL SCREENING

SEE YOU NEXT TUESDAY – *Drew Tobia in person*



Saturday, April 5, 9:00 PM

USA | 2013 | Fiction | 82 Minutes



Writer & Director: Drew Tobia

**Writer and Director:** Drew Tobia

**Producer:** Rachel Wolther **Cinematographer:** Andrew Whittaker

**Editor:** Sofi Marshall **Composer:** Brian McOmber

**Cast:** Eleanore Pienta, Dana Eskelson, Molly Plunk, Keisha Zollar

**Synopsis:** At once tender and obscene, Drew Tobia’s hilarious portrait of a dysfunctional family has drawn deserved comparisons to the early work of Todd Solondz and John Waters. The action revolves around Mona, an abrasive, socially inept grocery-store clerk who is seemingly weeks away from giving birth. Her mother May is an unreliable recovering alcoholic and her unemployed narcissist sister lives off her bartender/novelist girlfriend. All three want absolutely nothing to do with Mona, yet somehow they can’t escape her.

**Filmmaker Bio:** Drew Tobia’s films are cult favorites at underground film festivals, online and on national and European television. His 2009 film *Leperefuck* won The Wall Award at the Atlanta Underground Film Festival and his films have played on MTV’s Logo Network and the German television program *Queerblick*. His work has been called “impressively revolting” (*The Oregonian*) and “so completely over-the-top – in a very minimalist way” (Mike Everleth, *Bad Lit*).



## SPECIAL SCREENING

# NOTHING LEFT TO FEAR – *Slash and Anthony Leonardi in person*

Saturday, April 5 at 11.30pm  
USA | 2013 | Fiction | 100 min



Producer & Composer: Slash



**Director:** Anthony Leonardi III **Writer:** Jonathan W.C. Mills  
**Producer:** Slash, Michael Williams, Rob Eric, Alison Palmer, Todd Dagues  
**Cinematographer:** Martin Coppen **Editor:** Howard E. Smith  
**Composer:** Nicholas O'Toole, Slash **Cast:** Anne Heche, James Tupper

**Synopsis:** The first feature of both director Leonardi and producer Slash, *Nothing Left to Fear* centers on a pastor (James Tupper), his wife (Anne Heche) and their three children, following a move to small town Kansas. All is not as it seems in this bucolic enclave, as the couple is drawn into the seedy underbelly of the town, rife with biblical allusions and possessed strangers. Inspired by urban legends native to the area, *Nothing Left to Fear* leaves audiences with that very feeling.

**Filmmaker Bio:** The Grammy-winning musician Slash, an original member of Guns N' Roses, has sold nearly 100 million albums, and was picked by Time as the #2 best electric guitarist of all time, behind Jimi Hendrix. *Nothing Left to Fear* is his debut as a producer. The film's director, Anthony Leonardi III, was a conceptual and storyboard artist on films including *Pirates of the Caribbean 3*, *Water for Elephants* and *The Lone Ranger*, and the director of the award-winning short film *Existence*. *Nothing Left to Fear* is his first feature-length film.



## **HOW THEY DID IT**

is a group of exciting live events offered by First Time Fest for filmmakers, cinema aficionados and the general public, a series of panels with respected filmmakers and executives discussing every aspect of the creation of their award-winning films – and how to survive in the entertainment industry.

## **Women in Entertainment – presented by Royal Bank of Canada**

Thursday, April 3rd at 5pm - NeueHouse  
How has the participation of women in the entertainment industry changed over time? There has been real progress in recent years, but has it been enough, and what can we expect in the years ahead?

## **What's Up, Doc**

Friday, April 4th at 2pm – NeueHouse  
Is this a “golden age” of documentary film? What does it mean to be a documentarian in 2014? How has the form evolved? What is the public appetite for these films? Join our panel of extraordinary doc filmmakers in this freewheeling discussion about the art, craft and business of documentary film.

## **Help Me Help You**

Friday, March 1st at 4:30pm –  
NeueHouse  
Everyone needs an agent. Join some of New York's most influential agents and managers as they offer the inside scoop on what will make them want to sign you.

## **Show Me the Money**

Saturday, April 5th at 11am - NeueHouse  
What more important question is there for aspiring filmmakers to answer than: How do I fund my film?! Hear experts – from established financiers to DIY and crowdfunding leaders – illuminate the way.

## **We Need A Bigger Boat – Producing Independent Cinema**

Saturday, April 5th at 11am - NeueHouse  
Independent film — made without the deep-pocketed support of major studios – relies on the ingenuity and resourcefulness of talented producers. Hear some of the finest producers working in indie cinema today discuss their projects, raising money in a troubled economy – and getting their film made no matter what.

## **The Critical Eye**

Sunday, April 6th at 12pm - NeueHouse  
How is new cinema discovered? A lively and opinionated conversation between print and online critics about the make-or-break role reviews (and their writers) play in the success of independent cinema.

## Sell Baby, Sell!

Sunday, April 6th at 2:30pm - NeueHouse

So you've done it — you've made a feature film. Now the hard part... how do you sell it? Distributors, publicists, and sales agents discuss what you should and should not as you try to build an audience — in theaters, TV and the web — in today's rapidly changing media and exhibition universe.

## From Rock to Score

Sunday, April 6th at 3pm — NeueHouse

Join Slash and other prominent musicians as they discuss what it takes to make the leap from pop/rock success to the world of film scoring. They'll talk about the different challenges of scoring film, Broadway musicals, TV shows, commercials and video games.

## FTF Filmmakers Forum — Free to the public

Monday, April 7th at 3pm

Join us for this exciting roundtable discussion with our competition filmmakers as they discuss their personal, artistic and filmmaking journeys on the road to First Time Fest!



**FIRST TIME FEST** PRESENTS



## **STAND ALONE!**

**Conversations with the Outstanding...**

Michael Moore – Saturday, April 5 at 3:30pm at Loews Village VII Cinema  
Peter Bogdanovich – Sunday, April 6 at 4:30pm at Loews Village VII Cinema

FTF present a series of extraordinary conversations with amazing cinema and performing artists. Please check [www.FirstTimeFest.com](http://www.FirstTimeFest.com) for the latest additions!



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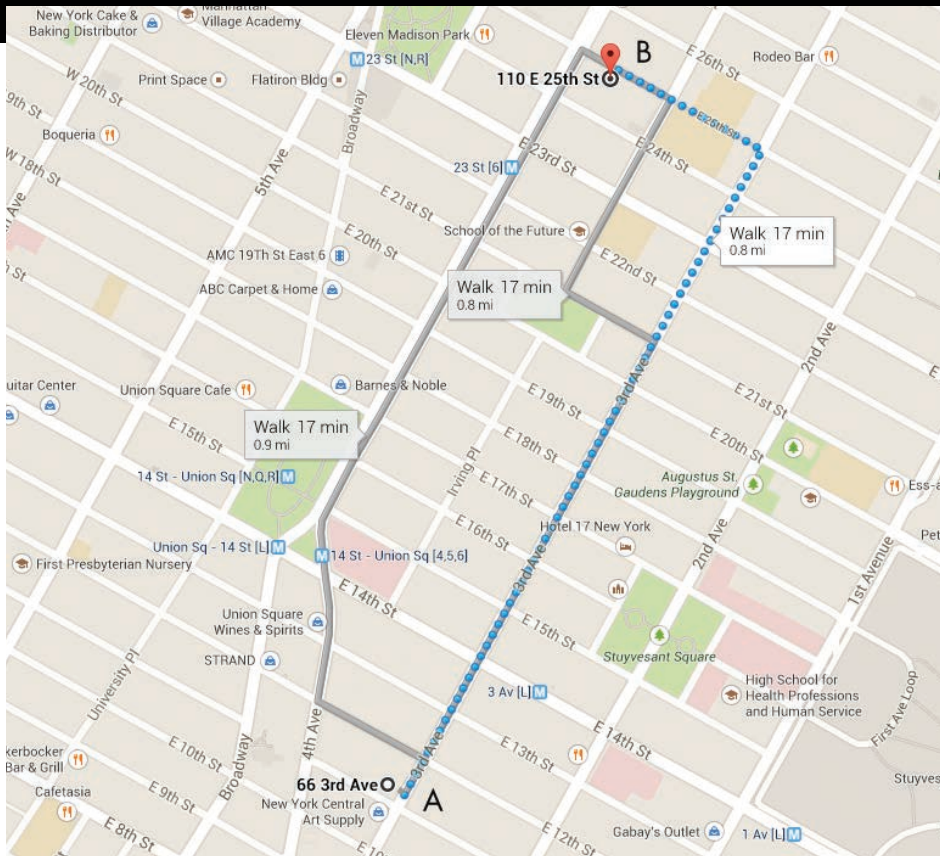
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