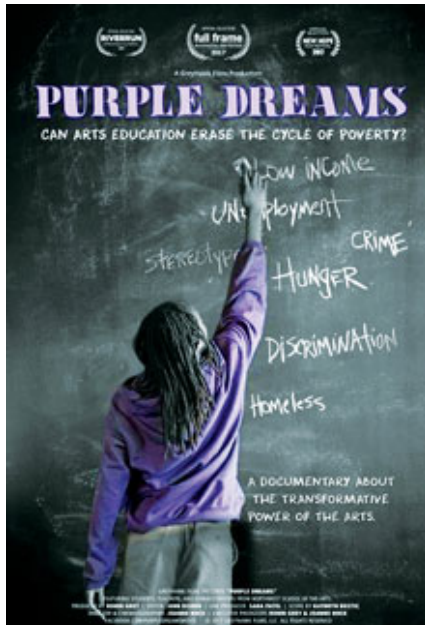


BIFF 2018: Meet the (New) Filmmakers

Written by Mark Shaffer

Tuesday, 06 February 2018 14:46 - Last Updated Tuesday, 20 February 2018 08:27



By Mark Shaffer

The 12th Annual Beaufort International Film Festival kicks off with an opening night gala February 21st followed by three days packed with screenings, special events and plenty of interaction with perhaps the largest class of attending filmmakers in festival history, all at the USCB Center for the Arts.

This 12th iteration of South Carolina's largest film festival is edgier than past festivals, more "out of the box," according to festival runners, Ron and Rebecca Tucker. It's also

expected to break previous attendance records. Read all about it in the February 21st *Lowcountry Weekly* BIFF Cover Issue.

As always, we'll cover the festival from start to finish. We try and gauge the pulse of what's coming by reaching out to attending filmmakers with a brief questionnaire via email. This year we concentrated exclusively on first timers.



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From the Features category, Mike Kravinsky hails from Arlington, Virginia. He writes and directs "Nothing to Do," about a dysfunctional family dealing - or not dealing - with the patriarch's final days. Los Angeles based Director Mischa Marcus brings a film the Tuckers call one of the most challenging films in BIFF's 12 years. "I Am Still Here" is the story of 10-year-old Layla, stolen from her family and sold into America's child sex industry. The film is based on interviews with actual trafficking survivors. Director Joanne Hock is based in Charlotte. Her Feature Documentary, "Purple Dreams," shadows six at-risk black high school students on a three-year journey of transformation through arts in education.

Out of the Shorts category, Gerard Bianco writes, directs and stars in the comedy "Reality Disorder" and Sayra Player co-directs the drama "Uncle Silas." Both filmmakers travel to BIFF from New York. Ohio-based director KC Allen brings "Melting Pot." All three take a vastly different look at the state of the American Family.

THE Q&A

We're not exactly Sundance. How did you find out about us?

Gerard Bianco: Another filmmaker we met at a film festival in New Jersey screened her short

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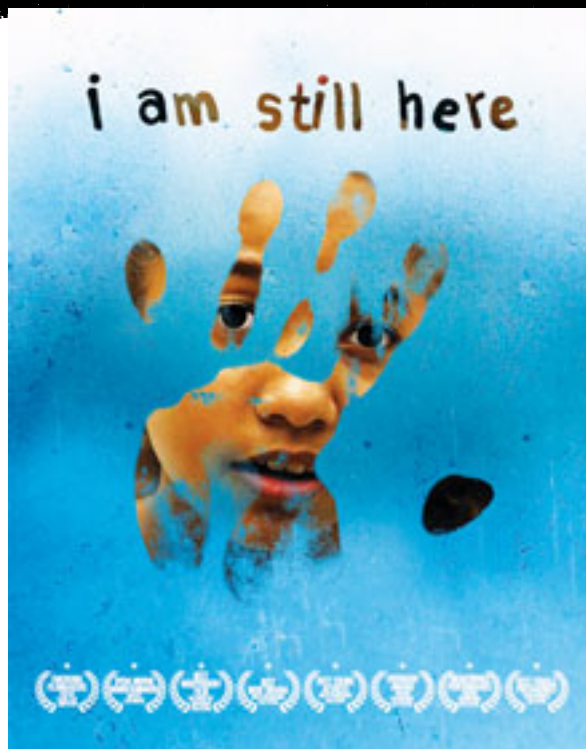
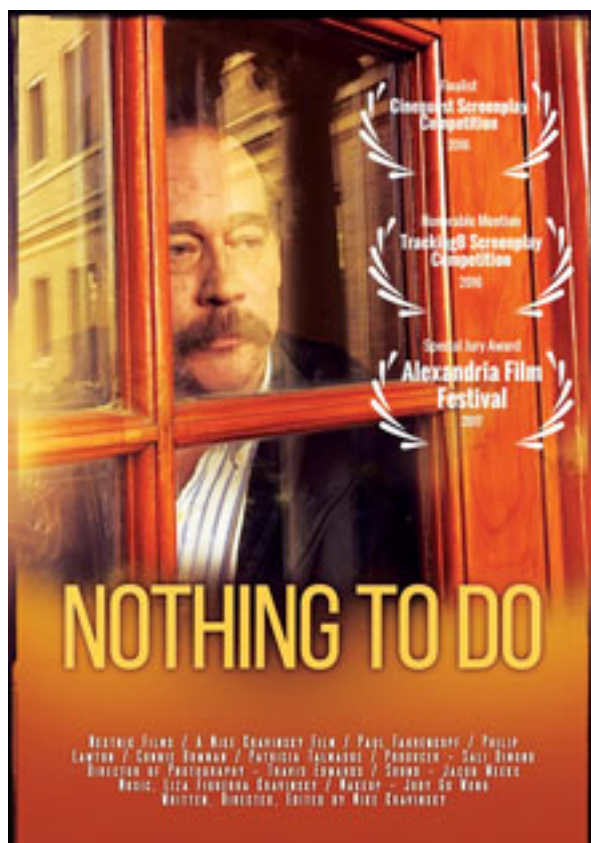


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