

# RAGTAG FILM SOCIETY



**FEBRUARY 19, 2021**

## **TRUE/FALSE FILM FEST ANNOUNCES RITES OF SPRING & VIRTUAL RETROSPECTIVE “HINDSIGHT”**

Columbia, Missouri - In a celebratory kick-off to the spring season and to commemorate the weekend that True/False 2021 would have happened were it not for the global pandemic, Ragtag Film Society plans to host a multi-faceted event called Rites of Spring. Taking place on Saturday, March 6, Rites of Spring will be a full day of festivities: the 3rd annual True/Love shopping event, an online How-To-Fest session, a physically distanced in-person community-fire-ritual-turned-group-art-installation, and a drive-in screening, all dedicated to ushering in the season and the Fest-to-be.

Daytime Rites of Spring activities will primarily take place in person at the Boone County Courthouse Amphitheater, where participants are invited to reflect on the past and the future by taking part in a Fest art project and casting personal notes into an original fire sculpture, all while enjoying a busker showcase. After the concert, festival staff will share information and answer questions about how to access the 2021 festival. Following Rites of Spring, the fire sculpture will be transformed into an (electric) “eternal flame” that will live outside on the lawn at Hittsville (10 Hitt street) until the festival in May. The art created during Rites of Spring will be incorporated into an installation piece displayed at the festival. Daytime Rites of Spring activities run from noon to 4pm and are free and open to the public.

The True/Love shopping event is a partnership with local retailers and restaurants during which 10% of the day’s proceeds from participating businesses go to support True/False. True/Love kicks off virtually on the Fest Facebook page from 9am-noon, and in-person shopping takes place during businesses’ operating hours. There will be buskers around The District, and the Les Bourgeois’ official T/F 2021 wines will make their debut at participating restaurants and bars. The full roster of [True/Love participants](#) is available online.

Building a throughline between March and May, Rites of Spring also marks the beginning of an eight-week virtual True/False retrospective series called Hindsight. Weather permitting, the first Hindsight film, *Did You Wonder Who Fired the Gun?* (T/F 2017, Dir. Travis Wilkerson), will be screened at a pop-up [drive-in](#) at RE/MAX Boone Realty’s parking lot on March 6. Following this in-person event, the eight elusive and enduring True/False films making up Hindsight will be available for online viewing, along with a virtual Q&A with the directors, launching weekly from March 7 through April 25. Each film will open online at 6pm on Sunday evening, with a Q&A following. Recordings of the Q&As for each film will be available online for the rest of the week. The [Hindsight pass](#) and drive-in tickets are available for purchase online. Individual tickets for each virtual screening will be available starting one week in advance.

Safety has always been a top priority for True/False and all event safety plans have been developed in collaboration with the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services. [More information about Fest health precautions can be found online.](#)

**For more information, contact:**

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## **HINDSIGHT LINEUP**

### **WEEK ONE: MARCH 7 - 14**

#### **DID YOU WONDER WHO FIRED THE GUN?**

Dir. Travis Wilkerson

"Trust me when I tell you that this isn't another white savior story. This is a white nightmare story."

Built on stray shots and archival loops, Wilkerson leads us on a multimedia trek into the dark basements of family histories and regretful legacies—as well as their present-day echoes. In 1946, S.E.

Branch—Wilkerson's great-grandfather—murdered Bill Spann, a black man, in Dothan, Alabama. Buried under years of silence, Wilkerson must play detective as he constructs the record from tattered primary sources, popular culture, and self-inquiry. (T/F 2017. 90 min.)

### **WEEK TWO: MARCH 14 - 21**

#### **THE VANQUISHING OF THE WITCH BABA YAGA**

Dir. Jessica Oreck

Following fairy-tales and personal memories like a trail of breadcrumbs, *The Vanquishing of the Witch Baba Yaga* descends into Eastern Europe's haunted woodlands to uncover the secrets and bloody histories that shape our understanding of man's place in nature. (T/F 2015. 73 min.)

### **WEEK THREE: MARCH 21 - 28**

#### **A WILD STREAM**

Dir. Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda

Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda's observational camera seamlessly enters a beautiful, delicate, and ambiguous bond of two fishermen on the Sea of Cortez. There is no denying the staggering intimacy suffusing her film, the electricity that exists between her subjects, or the overwhelming emotions generated by their journey. (T/F 2019. 73 min.)

### **WEEK FOUR: MARCH 28 - APRIL 4**

#### **ACTRESS**

Dir. Robert Greene

After years of playing the role of stay-at-home mother, Brandy Burre decides to re-enter the acting business. *Actress* is a chimeric meditation on self-criticism, aging, and the fickle nature of identities built on relationships—as well as a brutally honest portrayal of the contemporary American family. (T/F 2014. 91 min.)

### **WEEK FIVE: APRIL 4 - 11**

#### **SHAKEDOWN**

Dir. Leilah Weinraub

"Listen up, if you straight, you don't need to be in the front. Period."

13 years and over 400 hours of footage culminate in a joyous, unapologetic, and electrifying lo-fi testament to an L.A. Black lesbian strip club called Shakedown. (T/F 2018. 69 min.)

### **WEEK SIX: APRIL 11 - 18**

#### **O'ER THE LAND**

Dir. Deborah Stratman

Discursive and experimental, Stratman's film builds its non-narrative by gleaning often-contradictory, colloquial definitions of American, capital-F-Freedom—from machine gun rentals at the fairground to

killing time patrolling the border—and meditating on the reification of Manifest Destiny. (T/F 2009. 52 min.)

**WEEK SEVEN: APRIL 18 - 25**

**DISORDER**

Dir. Huang Weikei

*Disorder* is a lyrical portrait of hell on earth, fashioned from the collected footage of a dozen amateur videographers on the streets of Guangzhou, China. Huang Weikei builds a dystopian future in the present, eschewing exposition for energy—frenetic, terrifying, and dangerous. (T/F 2010. 58 min.)

**WEEK EIGHT: APRIL 25 - MAY 2**

**MANDA BALA (Send a Bullet)**

Dir. Jason Kohn

Opening on the dead-serious, sneering audio of a kidnapping before rocketing into a kaleidoscope of corruption and tropicalia-scored crime-flick-cool, *Manda Bala* asks less how Sao Paulo, Brazil became a world capital of violence, and asks more who is capitalizing on it. From a clandestine frog farmer to a celebrity plastic surgeon famous for replacing ears excised at the hands of human traffickers, the film is a ride in a bulletproof Porsche through a city built on violence. (T/F 2007. 85 min.)