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**The 29th New Orleans Film Festival Celebrates Music On & Off-Screen**

**New Orleans, La. (August 31st, 2018) ––** In a city synonymous with music, the 29th New Orleans Film Festival (#NOFF2018) is proud to showcase numerous films that celebrate music in a unique way. Similar to years prior, the festival has a full section dedicated to music videos, featuring **twelve new, cutting-edge, music videos** from around the world as well as films in other sections of the festival that put music to their heart. **Twenty music films** – ten of them having their World Premiere at #NOFF2018– span nine different festival categories including Caribbean Voices, Narrative Features, Documentary Features, Louisiana Features, Narrative Shorts, Animated Shorts and Louisiana Shorts.

The festival has also announced the film **A Tuba to Cuba** as its **Closing Night** selection, to screen **Thursday, October 25, at the Contemporary Arts Center**, with a special performance to follow from the **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** as part of the **Closing Night Party**. The documentary, which follows the band as they retrace their musical roots to the shores of Cuba, underscores the festival’s programmatic focus on films from and about the **Caribbean** and the Caribbean diaspora, particularly those that speak to the historical and cultural ties between New Orleans and the Caribbean.

**Music Video Lounge at the festival HUB: The Contemporary Arts Center**

This year the New Orleans Film Festival campus expands to include a larger campus in the New Orleans Central Business District, centered around **a new festival HUB at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC)**, which boasts a 180-seat and 300-seat screening room; **a virtual reality exhibition**, box offices, a bar, and a **music video lounge** where festival goers can sit relax between screenings and enjoy an installation of music videos.

**Films by Day Parties by Night**

According to the MovieMaker Magazine, “Parties of the New Orleans Film Festival set the bar for U.S. film festivals.” The reputation is here to stay this year with parties every night for All Access Passholders and the infamous Saturday Night Party at the Crescent City Park which is open to public on Saturday, October 20th.

**Let’s take a look at all films pertaining to music at #NOFF2018 lineup.**

**CLOSING NIGHT SELECTION**

***A Tuba to Cuba* | dir. T.G. Herrington, Danny Clinch | USA**

A Tuba To Cuba follows New Orleans' famed Preservation Hall Jazz Band as they retrace their musical roots from the storied city of jazz to the shores of Cuba and in turn discover a connection that runs much deeper than could have been imagined.

**SPOTLIGHT FILMS**

### ***Buckjumping* | dir. Lily Keber | 80 mins. | USA | 2018** WORLD PREMIERE. Buckjumping takes the pulse of present-day New Orleans by turning to its dancers, the men and women who embody the rhythm of the city and prove it on the streets every chance they get. (From the director of Bayou Maharajah which premiered at #NOFF2013)

***Cane River* | dir. Horace Jenkins | 90 mins. | 1982**

Cane River, the beautiful long-buried movie written and directed by Horace Jenkins in 1982, comes to life again for the first time in the 36 years since the director’s sudden death. A Romeo & Juliet love story with a surprise ending, Cane River is set near Natchitoches. Louisiana, in one of the first “free communities of color.” Richard Romain plays Peter Metoyer, home to fight for his land, and Tommye Myrick plays the headstrong Maria Mathis, reluctant to succumb to his charms just because he’s the scion of a famous family. Together they confront schisms of class and color that threaten to keep them apart and that still roil America today. A must-see lost treasure, Jenkins’ light touch with the local actors and musicians imbues the film with wit and warmth. New 35mm archival print by the Academy Film Archive, mastered in 4K by IndieCollect with support from the Roger & Chaz Ebert Foundation.

**Vox Lux** | dir. Brady Corbet | 110 min| USA | 2019

***Tuesday, October 23, at 8:45pm at the Main Theater at the CAC***

Vox Lux, starring Natalie Portman, begins in 1999 when teenage sisters Celeste and Eleanor survive a seismic, violent tragedy. The sisters compose and perform a song about their experience, making something lovely and cathartic out of catastrophe—while also catapulting Celeste to stardom. By 2017, the now 31-year-old Celeste is mother to a teenage daughter of her own and struggling to navigate a career fraught with scandals when another act of terrifying violence demands her attention.

**CARRIBEAN VOICES**

***Pa’lante* | dir. Kristian Mercado | Puerto Rico, USA**

Pa'lante is the story of an estranged Puerto Rican family struggling to reconnect in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. It explores Nuyorican and Puerto Rican identity along with working class issues. The narrative is a contemplation on Single Motherhood, and the push to seek hope in terrible circumstances.

**NARRATIVE FEATURES**

***Pig Film* | dir. Josh Gibson | USA**

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE. In an empty world, a solitary female mechanically follows the protocols of a factory hog farm. Her labors are sporadically punctuated by musical rhapsodies as she moves toward the impending end.

**DOCUMENTARY FEATURES**

***Bathtubs Over Broadway* | dir. Dava Whisenant | USA**

Comedy writer Steve Young’s assignment to scour bargain-bin vinyl for a Late Night segment becomes an unexpected, decades-spanning obsession when he stumbles upon the strange and hilarious world of corporate musicals in this comedic music documentary. With David Letterman, Martin Short, Chita Rivera, Susan Stroman, Jello Biafra, Florence Henderson, and more.

**LOUISIANA FEATURES**

***A Man and His Trumpet: The Leroy Jones Story* | dir. Cameron Washington | USA**

Follow the life journey of legendary New Orleanian trumpeter Leroy Jones, as he starts the Fairview Brass Band and then the Hurricane Brass Band leading to the brass band revival in NOLA. Leroy then is discovered by Harry Connick Jr, and ends up touring the globe the next 20 years with that big band. Leroy's life ends up touching on many historic moments in New Orleans musical history.

**NARRATIVE SHORTS**

***My Home is a Dog that Lives Inside Me* | dir. Adam Briggs | Australia, Japan**

An old folk singer returns to a small seaside village, visits past people, plays to moments, and holds a small untidy concert.

**LOUISIANA SHORTS**

***Between the Notes* | dir. Bruce Dear, Travis Henry | USA**

WORLD PREMIERE. A documentary short exploring the intimate portrait between artist, music and the sacred. Select interviews and solo performances from world renowned musicians on a personal sojourn to musician-hood, early influencers and the challenges of artists in the current day and age. Listen to what makes these musicians feel alive, connected to spirit, music and audience. Film against the backdrop of New Orleans the birthplace of Jazz.

***Blues Boy George* | dir. James Coyle, James McCormack | UK, USA**

Blues Boy George is a talented guitarist and musician that has been in the game for a very long time without breaking through, and he's still hungry. Life isn't easy and the struggle is real. There's escape to be found in playing and acceptance to be reached with the life we lead, but is there still a chance for success?

***JC Style's "Boom"* | dir. Will Rand Sampson | USA**

WORLD PREMIERE. A guerilla-style Bourbon Street bounce extravaganza.

***New Water Music* | dir. Anthony Clune | USA**

WORLD PREMIERE. Collaborators Delaney Martin and Yotam Haber combine music, art, and activism to address the Gulf Coast crisis. Together they orchestrate NEW WATER MUSIC - an 'orchestral water spectacle' on Lake Pontchartrain. The performance includes the Louisiana Philharmonic, a shrimp boat ballet, and over a hundred community musicians festooned in costumes. Watch the community grapple with this vital social issue in a uniquely New Orleanian fashion.

***Respect: The Original Pinettes Brass Band* | dir. Ernest Collins, Bernard Wade | USA**

WORLD PREMIERE. This documentary tells the story of the Pinettes, the only female brass band in New Orleans, the birthplace of Jazz. Brass bands in New Orleans are a musical genre that is overwhelmingly male dominated. It's a gritty, tough, marching band musical culture that bubbles up from the streets. From the first moment of their formation as a band, the Pinettes have to fight for respect. Because they're females in a male dominated field, they struggle to be taken seriously as musicians, and to be considered innovators and standard bearers for a century old musical tradition. To gain legitimacy, they decide to enter the legendary Red Bull Street Kings brass band competition. Although it took several attempts, they ultimately win the competition, renaming it from Street Kings to Street Queens. We also learn the background and motivations of these talented ladies who demand respect from their male contemporaries while being celebrated by a loyal fan base. Along the way, we hear from key contributors that expand on the uniqueness and passion that the Pinettes display in their pursuit of their musical mission. In this current age of women's empowerment, it’s heartening to see the ladies finally get their due.

***The Funeral Band* | dir. Nicholas Manuel Pino | USA**

WORLD PREMIERE. The Funeral Band centers on John, a young man displaced by Hurricane Katrina at 5 years old, returning to the city for college and to discover his roots. On his first day as the newest member of the "Thicker Than Blood Brass Band", he learns all about the unique community he's been disconnected from for so long -- the legends, the beefs, and the traditions that follow you to the grave.

***The Heart is an Organ* | dir. David S. White | USA**

WORLD PREMIERE. The story is different than we thought when first conceived of this project. We thought we were making a documentary about a 29 hour continuous music festival called Bach Around the Clock. During filming though it became clear that the real story was not about the event itself but about the beautiful love triangle between a musical genius (Albinas), a lover of art (Manon), and the church organ that binds them to the community. Without either, neither would be complete and the love between all three is radiated out into the world.

***The Language of Silence* | dir. Caterina Picone | USA**

WORLD PREMIERE. A musician who has recently lost his hearing must decide whether to get cochlear implants. Although his born-Deaf girlfriend is supportive, his anxieties about fitting in with society begin to cause a schism in their relationship.

***The Tumbling Wheels: "Sleepwalking"* | dir. All of them Witches (Emily MacKenzie, Sasha Solodukhina) | USA**

An alligator cannot wake up from a fever dream.

***Tropical Punch* | dir. Bertucci, Berteaux, Wilberto Lucci | USA**

WORLD PREMIERE. A musical documentary about the history of Bounce music as told by the world-renowned Big Freedia.

***Walter Wolfman Washington: "Save Your Love For Me"* | dir. Sam Radutzky | USA**

Walter ‘Wolfman’ Washington performs his new song ‘Save Your Love For Me’ in this music video.

**ANIMATED SHORTS**

***Make it Soul* |dir. Jean-Charles Mbotti Malolo | *France***

Chicago, winter 1965. The Regal Theater hosts James Brown and Solomon Burke, two monuments of Soul music. Backstage, everyone's under pressure. But in 1960s America, both men know their music has unexpected powers

**MUSIC VIDEOS**

***BC Unidos "Bicycle" feat. Shungudzo* | dir. Joel Kazuo Knoernschild | USA**

A bike-positive anthem featuring the Scraper Bike Team, a squad of bicycle artists in Oakland, California, powered by a community non-profit.

***Boyish* | dir. Michelle Zauner | USA**

The video for Japanese Breakfast’s “Boyish” is inspired by that epitome of teen angst, the Hollywood prom scene.

***Dumb Dumb* | dir. Daniela “Zoe” Croci | USA**

US PREMIERE. A vintage futuristic experience, a boom-bap anthem that features an all female cast of dancers.

***Gaz Coombes: "Walk the Walk"* |dir. Najeeb Tarazi | USA**

A poker game unfolds in a series of experimental video collages inspired by David Hockney’s “Joiners”.

***I Wonder If Heaven Got Condos* | dir. Angel Kristi Williams | USA**  
WORLD PREMIERE. This Baltimore hip-hop artist resurrects a block of vacant houses in a dreamlike interpretation of heaven.

***Indie* | dir. Angel Kristi Williams | USA**

This music video offers a celebration of black excellence in Baltimore.

***Lord* | dir. Rianne White | Scotland**

‘If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride.’ An exploration into the internal struggle between fantasy and reality contained within a man on a horse.

***Mad as Hell* | dir. Emily Pelstring, Meg Remy | Canada**

The music video for U.S. Girls’ disco-inspired war protest song.

***Make Me Wanna Holler* | dir. Erica Eng | USA**

Starring the deaf dancer and performer Antoine Hunter, this film paints a portrait of the daily struggles and frustrations that challenge a homeless man living on the streets of San Francisco.

***No Babies* | dir. Justin Casselle | USA**

An ode to birth control and living your best life.

***Paula Cavalciuk: "Morte e Vida Uterina" ("Uterine Death and Life")* | dir. Daniel Bruson | Brazil**

A girl walks her path to womanhood. She is broken over and over again but insists on getting up. A music video by Brazilian singer-songwriter Paula Cavalciuk.

***Scandal* | dir. Pablo Mengin | Réunion**

Built from two thousand paintings in four minutes, this film is a reflection on the city versus man, pop culture, love, and death.