**For Immediate Release**

October 30, 2019

**Media Contact**

Zaf Yumru

(504) 309-6633

[zaf@neworleansfilmsociety.org](mailto:zaf@neworleansfilmsociety.org)

***PLACE OVER TIME: PERSPECTIVES ON THE SOUTH THROUGH FILM***

**PRESENTED BY THE HELIS FOUNDATION**

**A FILM AND CONVERSATION SERIES**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**New Orleans, La. (October 30, 2019) ––** The New Orleans Film Society (NOFS) and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art will be launching a new co-organized film & conversation series titled “**PLACE OVER TIME: Perspectives on the South through Film** ” showcasing three films by Southern filmmakers with different perspectives on the Southern experience. Screenings will be held at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, located at 925 Camp Street. The series is **free and open to the public**, thanks to the generous support of The Helis Foundation.

The series will kick off on **Tuesday,** **November 5th,** with a screening of **BURNING CANE**, directed by 19-year-old New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) alum Phillip Youmans. The screening will be followed by a post-film conversation with actors **Dominique McClellan** and **Karen Kaia Livers.** The film, starring **Wendell Pierce**, is set amongst the cane fields of rural Louisiana, where a deeply religious woman struggles to reconcile her convictions of faith with the love she has for her alcoholic son and troubled preacher.

With *Burning Cane*, **Youmans** became the **youngest and the first African-American director** to win the Founder’s Award for **Best Narrative Feature** at the **Tribeca Film Festival**. The film received the “**Youth Film Grant**” through #CreateLouisiana last year, funded in part by the New Orleans Film Society, and was selected as the Centerpiece Film at the 30th-annual New Orleans Film Festival. The screening will be followed by a conversation with Youmans. Burning Cane is now an official New York Time critics’ pick and Youmans just got a Gotham Awards nomination for the Breakthrough Director Award.

On **Thursday**, **December 5th**, the series offers a special screening of **HANDS ON A HARDBODY**, documentary about a competition to win a hardbody truck in a small Texas town. It is one of the most enduring and charming portraits of Southern life during the mid-90s and spawned a Broadway musical and a feature screenplay from acclaimed director **Robert Altman**.

The third and final screening of the series will take place on **Thursday, January 9th, 2020** with the 1985 documentary **SHERMAN’S MARCH**, which sets out to follow **General William T. Sherman**'s infamous scorched-earth march through the Confederacy in the latter stages of the Civil War, but ends up finding something else. **Time Out New York** recently listed the film under their 51 Best Documentaries of All Time and said “This strikingly perceptive doc is so intimate, it hurts.” **Director Ross McElwee will be in attendance for a post-film discussion.**

Admission to "Place Over Time: Perspectives on the South Through Film" is **free and open to the public thanks to the generous support of The Helis Foundation. *First come, first seated.***

To become a member of the New Orleans Film Society, visit <https://neworleansfilmsociety.org/become-a-member>

To become a member of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, visit <https://ogdenmuseum.org/join/become-a-member/>

Join the Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/521024878690468/>

**FILM DESCRIPTIONS**

**BURNING CANE**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 6 pm at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art**

**Director Phillip Youmans will be in attendance.**

Dir. Phillip Youmans | Narrative Feature | USA | 2019 | 1h 18m

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJtQ1jqICqk>

Synopsis: “The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?” Religion is at the heart of Burning Cane, ever-present beneath the surface of its characters’ lives as they navigate their vices. Headstrong matriarch Helen Wayne takes in her son as he struggles with alcoholism while raising her grandson. Helen reflects on her relationship with her family, her Pastor (Wendell Pierce), and her God in this multidimensional meditation on life in rural Louisiana. Phillip Youmans delicately balances beauty, faith, and toxicity in his directorial debut, which won him the Founders Prize at Tribeca. Youmans is the youngest and only African American director to win the prestigious award, but don’t let his age fool you—Burning Cane flows with maturity and grace.

**HANDS ON A HARD BODY**

**Thursday, December 5, 2019, 6 pm at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art**

Dir. S.R. Bindler | Documentary Feature | USA | 1997 | 1h 38m

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgA3DvoBVb8>

Synopsis: Before the dominance of reality television, this documentary about a competition to win a hardbody truck in a small Texas town is one of the most enduring and charming portraits of Southern life during the mid-90s. It spawned a Broadway musical and a feature screenplay from acclaimed director Robert Altman.

**SHERMAN’S MARCH**

**Thursday, January 9, 2020, 6 pm at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art**

**Director Ross McElwee in attendance.**

Dir. Ross McElwee | Documentary Feature | USA | 1985 | 2h 37m

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4i7gJnOlRg>

Synopsis: Documentarian Ross McElwee originally set out to make a travelogue of sorts tracing General William T. Sherman's infamous scorched-earth march through the Confederacy in the latter stages of the Civil War. Instead, haunted by a recent breakup with a girlfriend, McElwee ends up documenting his progress – or lack thereof – in starting a new relationship. His journey then becomes one of self-reflection and self-discovery rather than a historical/sociological exploration.

–––

**ABOUT THE HELIS FOUNDATION**

The Helis Foundation is a Louisiana private foundation, established and funded by the William Helis Family. The Art Funds of The Helis Foundation advance access to the arts for the community through contributions that sustain operations for, provide free admission to,

acquire works of art, and underwrite major exhibitions and projects of institutions within the Greater New Orleans area. [www.thehelisfoundation.org](http://www.thehelisfoundation.org)

**ABOUT THE NEW ORLEANS FILM SOCIETY**The New Orleans Film Society discovers, cultivates, and amplifies diverse voices of filmmakers who tell the stories of our time. Founded in 1989, NOFS produces the Oscar®-qualifying New Orleans Film Festival annually and invests year-round in building a vibrant film culture in the South to share transformative cinematic experiences with audiences, and connect dynamic filmmakers to career-advancing resources. Year-round programming includes free and low-cost screenings for members and the broader community of cinephiles in New Orleans, a 20-year running French Film Festival featuring contemporary and classic French cinema, and filmmaker professional development programs created to nurture diverse voices in filmmaking in the American South. NOFS is a 501(c)(3) organization.

[Website](http://neworleansfilmsociety.org) | [Instagram](http://instagram.com/neworleansfilmsociety) | [Facebook](http://facebook.com/neworleansfilmsociety) | [Twitter](http://twitter.com/nofs)

**ABOUT OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART**Located in the vibrant Warehouse Arts District of downtown New Orleans, Louisiana since 1999, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art welcomes 85,000 visitors annually to experience and learn about the artists and art movements of the American South. It is home to a collection of more than four thousand works, making it the largest and most comprehensive repository dedicated to Southern art in the nation, with particular strength in the genres of Self-Taught art, Regionalism, photography, and contemporary art. The Museum is further recognized for its original exhibitions, public events and educational programs, which examine the development of visual art alongside Southern traditions of music, literature and local craft. Among its recent exhibitions are Memory is a Strange Bell: The Art of William Christenberry (2019-2020), Level Artist Collective (2019-2020), Piercing the Inner Wall: The Art of Dusti Bongé (2019), New Southern Photography (2018-2019), The Whole Drum Will Sound: Women in Southern Abstraction (2018), and Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection,presented by The Helis Foundation (2017-2018).

The Ogden Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursdays from 6 – 8 p.m. for Ogden After Hours. Admission is free to Museum Members and $13.50 for adults, $11 for seniors 65 and older, $6.75 for children ages 5-17 and free for children under 5.

The Museum is located at 925 Camp Street, New Orleans Louisiana 70130. For more information visit [ogdenmuseum.org](https://ogdenmuseum.org/) or call 504.539.9650.

###