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**BATES FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE FOR 2019  
FESTIVAL**

*Other Festival Directors Take Notice*

**LEWISTON, MAINE, October 28, 2019** – The Bates Film Festival has announced its schedule for the 2019 festival, and area festival directors have taken notice.

"The Bates Film Festival has announced a schedule that is as good or better than any festival I have seen" said Jay Craven, Artistic Director of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, "No, they don't screen 100 films - but that's what makes it exceptional. Each selection is obviously the result of painstaking care and thoughtful curation. The Bates selections are largely undiscovered gems that will provide audiences the opportunity to see something unexpected, revelatory, and engaged with our larger world."

The festival features 25 films and 1 virtual reality title that will screen across 5 days. All events are free and open to the public.

"This represents a lot of great work at Bates," Mike Perrault, director of the Maine Film Center and the Maine International Film Festival said, "such an undertaking exposes students (and their audiences) to a diverse range of cinematic works and storytelling from around the world. It's heartening to see Maine youth develop talent, skills, and interest in promoting arts and culture."

The festival will kick off on Wednesday, November 6, with a focus on Bates filmmakers. A block of three shorts by recent Bates alums will screen at 4pm followed by a panel discussion on the history of film study at the College. At 7pm, the festival will screen Elizabeth Rynecki's *Chasing Portraits*. Rynecki will be in attendance to take questions. All events take place in 104 Olin Arts Center.

Thursday, November 7, begins with a VR screening of *A Shared Space – Lewiston* in Chase Hall B18 from 1pm to 3pm. Shot in the city, the immersive 360-degree experience follows two individuals who were raised in a refugee camp in eastern Kenya but now call Lewiston home. At 4pm, a block of four documentary shorts – including the Lewiston premiere of David Shayne’s and Jacob Roberts’ *Lewiston*, a film that chronicles the relationship between various ethnic and racial groups in the city – shown in 104 Olin Arts Center. At 8pm, *The Last Black Man in San Francisco* screens in Schaeffer Theatre.

Friday, November 8, features a full-day of programming on the topic of “borders and boundaries.” *The Feeling of Being Watched* (10am), *Midnight Traveler* (1:30pm), *Woman at War* (5:15pm), and *Ms. Purple* (7:30pm) will all screen in 104 Olin Arts Center. A panel on the topic of borders and boundaries will take place at 4pm in 104 Olin Arts Center and will feature visiting filmmakers, Bates faculty, and other Maine community members.

Saturday, November 9, kicks off with Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje’s autobiographical drama *Farming*, starring Kate Beckinsale and Gugu Mbatha-Raw. Akinnuoye-Agbaje has recorded a short video for the occasion. A block of narrative and animated shorts plays at 1:30pm and *Changing the Game* screens at 5pm, with Sarah Rose Huckman, one of the subjects of the film, in attendance. A panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities of representing difference will take place at 3:45pm and will feature filmmakers, activists, and members of the Bates and greater Maine communities. All events will take place in 104 Olin Arts Center.

Sunday, November 10 begins with a screening of *Always in Season* at 1:30pm in 104 Olin Arts Center with filmmaker Jacqueline Olive in attendance. At 5:30pm, a dinner and a movie event will conclude the festival. A screening of *Tazzeke*, a film about a young Moroccan man who dreams of becoming a chef, will be accompanied by a buffet of Moroccan and Parisian food in Muskie Archives.

The festival is an outgrowth of Jonathan Cavallero’s “Film Festival Studies” course, a seminar in the Rhetoric, Film, and Screen Studies department. “I worry a little about the festival being seen as a kind of class project,” Cavallero said, “One of the goals of the Bates Film Festival is to bring nationally and internationally recognized films to Maine – films that might not play here otherwise. In our two-year history, we have managed to do that. We’ve screened titles that went on to compete for Oscars. We’ve brought acclaimed filmmakers to campus. And we have used the films that we have programmed to start important conversations in the community. This is not just a class project. It’s an opportunity for young people to engage and lead conversations about topical social and political issues by bringing world-class films to campus.”

“Creating a successful film festival involves many complex decisions,” Barbara Merson, director of the Maine Jewish Film Festival said, “I am very impressed with the Bates Film Festival’s ability to focus on excellent films about issues that matter to the greater Maine community.”

“Plus, they’ve got some ten filmmakers planning to attend,” added Craven, “Audiences will experience something rare - the opportunity for fresh insight and intimate exchange. My hat’s off to everyone involved in this distinctive and ambitious festival.”

The Bates Film Festival will take place from November 6-10, 2019. More information about the slate of films as well as the schedule can be found on the festival's website [www.bates.edu/bff](http://www.bates.edu/bff).

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If you would like more information about this topic, please email [jcavalle@bates.edu](mailto:jcavalle@bates.edu). More information can also be found on the BFF website at: [www.bates.edu/bff](http://www.bates.edu/bff)