

PRESENTED BY



March 14, 2015
Las Vegas, NV

2015 Nevada Women's Film Festival FESTIVAL GUIDE



Date SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015

About

The Nevada Women's Film Festival will increase representation of female craft, vision, and experience in film with films that include a strong female presence, women at the helm, stories with strong female characters, stories that depict women in a positive light and which display diversity of worldview, background, and experience. Selections were made with an eye for local and emerging talent. 730 films were submitted for the festival, from over 70 countries.

Location

BAOBAB STAGE (inside Town Square) 6587 Las Vegas Blvd South Las Vegas, NV 89119

Schedule

Women of the Globe Noon - 5:30pm

The Femmy Awards 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Nevada Filmmakers 6:30pm - Midnight

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Creative Documentary Production.





Productions





















Open Letter

March 2, 2015



What began as a modest idea for a student club event quickly blossomed into something extraordinary the moment I met Dr. Pattie Thomas. I cannot thank her enough.

As the faculty advisor for our newly created Women's Film Collective at the College of Southern Nevada

(CSN), I was in a unique position to work with students to help bring awareness to the special challenges that women often confront in the male-dominated film industry. Soon the idea of a small festival was born; we saw it as a simple contribution we could make to support positive change.

Last fall I brought the idea to the amazing Professor Shirley Johnston of the Women's Alliance at CSN, who welcomed me into the fold and suggested we work with Pattie (and her Living Sociology Club) to organize this event in honor of Women's History Month in March. We had very little time.

Pattie quickly took things to the next level. With the help of the CSN Office of Community Relations, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, and our newly formed executive committee, including Professor Robert Benedetto of CSN, Professor Brett Levner and May May Luong of UNLV, Amey Esparza of NSC, Angela Thomas of AMG Enterprises, Danette Tull of the Nevada Film Office, Wassa Coulibably, and students such as WFC president Jeanette Fox, things took off like wildfire. It seems overnight we received hundreds of film submissions from all over the world. We were thrilled to find we had a genuine film festival on our hands.

Our official selections embrace filmmakers from a diversity of genders and backgrounds.

The first block of selections (noon - 5:30pm) is called **Women of the Globe**. This is a celebration of women filmmakers, or films with

Festival Welcome

complex female characters and subjects. The films come from **nine countries**, and consist of a mix of genres, including features, shorts, documentaries and animation.

Our awards ceremony, **The Femmy Awards** (because we have a sense of humor), runs from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. Awards such as the **Women's Film Collective award for Best Female Protagonist**, and the **Living Sociology award for Best Documentary** will be presented, and the recipient of our **Nevada Woman Filmmaker of the Year**, **Rebecca Thomas**, will be honored.

The second block of selections (6:30pm – midnight) called **Nevada Filmmakers**, showcases our local colleagues in the community, including students. This is also a mix of genres, and we kick it off with Rebecca's acclaimed feature, **Electrick Children**.

We hope you enjoy our inaugural Nevada Women's Film Festival. Ours is not the only festival out there to celebrate the accomplishments of women. But the stunning response from filmmakers worldwide has shown us that the need is pressing and real.

We deeply appreciate your support.

Oikri Corda

Nikki Corda

Founder and Festival Executive Director



Nikki spent her early career in the world of "development" in Los Angeles, reading and evaluating screenplays. After stints at Twentieth Century Fox and Michael Douglas's company at Paramount, she began producing and writing independently with the award-winning documentary, *Urban Rescuers*. She continues to follow her passion for non-fiction film with her business, Life-Portraits. In recent years, Nikki has taught a variety of film/video classes as an adjunct instructor at the College of Southern Nevada. She holds a BS in film from Boston University, and is an MFA candidate in Creative Non-Fiction at Sierra Nevada College.

Executive Committee



PATTIE THOMAS | Festival Executive Producer

Pattie Thomas, Ph.D. is a Sociologist who currently teaches at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, where she serves as Faculty Advisor to the Living Sociology Club. She has published over 200 articles as a freelance writer, is an active blogger and multi-media producer, often collaborating with her husband, Carl Wilkerson, MBA. Past projects include several short films, a radio show and co-authoring the book, *Taking Up Space*.



BRETT LEVNER | Festival Director

Brett graduated with honors from NYU and got her start at MTV where she worked her way up from intern to producer. Brett attended Columbia University's graduate film program. She became the first woman to win the Coca Cola Refreshing Filmmaker Award in 2004, with her film Being Reel. Brett is an Assistant Professor of Film at UNLV. She most recently directed, *The Track*, a feature film about underage sex trafficking in Las Vegas.



MAY MAY LUONG | Festival Producer

May May is a graduate of UNLV and has produced numerous award-winning short and feature length films. She recently completed her fourth feature film, *The Track*, directed by Brett Levner, starring Missy Yager and Sam Trammell. Her films have played in festivals worldwide and on cable. Currently, May May teaches Film courses at UNLV and is also working on the development of a number of projects as a partner at Roadwings Entertainment.



WASSA COULIBALY | Festival Event Producer

Wassa Coulibaly was born in Dakar, Senegal. She performed in the Cirque du Soleil show, *Zumanity*, for eleven years. Three years ago, she opened her own theater, the Baobab Stage, an oasis for artists to perform their own work. Wassa has had a passion for writing since she was a little girl; she loved poetry and books. *Red Dress* is a ten minute poem which grew into a play. She now has a full screenplay of the material and is developing it into a feature film.

Executive Committee



AMEY ESPARZA | Executive Committee

Amey Esparza creates programs to celebrate and enhance inclusivity at Nevada State College in the Office of Community Engagement & Diversity Initiatives. She is currently a graduate student at UNLV. Together with her partner, Amey runs the nonprofit Push Forward, a mentoring program that uses skateboarding as a method to connect at-risk youth to a future that includes higher education and the arts.



ROBERT BENEDETTO | Executive Committee

Robert Benedetto is a Professor at CSN in the Videography and Film Program, teaching classes in Screenwriting, Directing and Film Studies. He holds a B.A. and M.F.A. from Yale University where he made award-winning independent films. Robert is also a professional screenwriter and member of the WGA, with credits in both feature films and television. He formerly served as Director of Programming and Senior Producer for the CineVegas Film Festival.



DANETTE TULL | Executive Committee

Danette is the Film Resource Coordinator for the Nevada Film Office. Danette provides production assistance for both large and small budget projects, including film permitting, location scouting and intergovernmental logistics which require her to interface with individuals across Federal, State and local municipalities, and her foreign language skills have proven useful when interacting with international productions.



ANGELA THOMAS | Executive Committee

Angela Thomas, owner of AMG Enterprises, lives in Las Vegas. She is a talented writer, multi-media producer and talk show personality. After a successful career in the music industry marketing and promoting some of today's top artists for BMG Distribution, Angela turned her talents to creating and writing television programming. She has created and developed content for Wiegel Broadcasting and Viacom and is the Co-Founder of "Our Own Voices Live."

Women of the Globe

Screening Time: Saturday, March 14 at Noon

These films are a celebration of women filmmakers, or films with complex female characters and subjects. The films come from nine countries, and consist of a mix of genres, including features, shorts, documentaries and animation.

Sugar Coated

Directed by: Cassie Moronez

Country: US

Running Time: 00:04:46 Thoughts on the female

experience.

Winning Girl

Directed by: Kimberlee Bassford

Country: US (Hawaii)
Running Time: 01:08:00
Inspiring overview of four years in the life of a teen judo/wrestling champ from Hawaii.

Champ nom nawan.

TEN MINUTE BREAK

Morte Segreta (Secret Death)

Directed by: Michele Leonardi

Country: Italy

Running Time: 00:13:19
A Sicilian actress copes with loneliness and societal pressures as she confronts the mental health of her grown son.

A Small Dot On The Western Front

Directed by: A D Cooper

Country: UK

Running Time: 00:08:08
Based upon the true story of
Dorothy Lawrence, a female
journalist who managed to briefly
infiltrate the ranks of the all-male
British army during WWI.

Louhi

Directed by: Aila Mulari

Country: Finland

Running Time: 00:14:50

A dark, period piece inspired by Finnish mythology of a battered wife who fights back -- with unintended consequences.



Louhi

Women of the Globe

Scarlines

Directed by: Stephanie Young

Country: Canada

Running Time: 00:19:56 A trans man returns to his rural hometown for the first time since

his transition.

Killing My Girl

Directed by: Tasos Giapoutzis

Country: UK

Running Time: 00:11:37

An Asian immigrant in London is pressured by her husband and in-laws to undergo a sex-selective abortion.

e-Social

Directed by: Natalia Lampropoulou **Country:** Greece

Running Time: 00:15:00 In 2035, a young widow reluctantly allows a corporation to create a hologram of her deceased husband, based upon his social networks.

Blame

Directed by: Katy Davis

 $\textbf{Country:}\ \cup \mathsf{K}$

Running Time: 00:03:15 A humorous discussion of the human behavior of *blame*, by Dr. Brene Brown. **Babies** Directed

Directed by: C.C. Webster

Country: US

Running Time: 00:11:00

A young pregnant woman travels home and enlists her sister to help secure her baby's future: by stealing a 'cool' pair of jeans from her high school nemesis.



No Sex For Fish

No Sex For Fish

Directed by: Xinwei Cui

Country: Kenya

Running Time: 00:19:08

A look at the practice of *Jaboya*, sex trading for food, within a fishing community in Kisumu, Kenya.

TEN MINUTE BREAK

Women of the Globe



Small Small Thing: The Olivia Zinnah Story

The Fallen Phoenix

Directed by: Gwen Barriac,

Heather Larkin Country: US

Running Time: 00:05:19 An established composer struggles to write a masterpiece that pleases both himself and his sponsor.

Small Small Thing: The Olivia Zinnah Storv

Directed by: Jessica Vale Country: US / Liberia **Running Time:** 01:24:00 Chronicles the heartbreaking journey of a nine-year old Liberian girl who eventually dies of injuries inflicted from a brutal rape when she was seven-years old.

Anna

Directed by: Spiros Charalambous

Country: Greece

Running Time: 00:22:00 An immigrant domestic worker toils for an abusive woman and her family, but manages to open her heart to the ailing patriarch who is dependent upon her kindness.



THE FEMMY AWARDS Saturday, March 14 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Awards such as the Women's Film Collective award for Best Female Protagonist, and the Living Sociology award for Best Documentary will be presented, and the recipient of our Nevada Woman Filmmaker of the Year, Rebecca Thomas, will be honored.

Nevada Woman Filmmaker of the Year Rebecca Thomas



Rebecca Thomas was born in Walnut Creek, California on December 10, 1984. She was raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, the youngest of 5 children. She took a break from studying film at Brigham Young University to serve an 18-month Mormon mission in Japan. She went on to pursue her MFA in film directing at Columbia University in New York City.

She wrote the screenplay for the short NOBODY KNOWS YOU, NOBODY GIVES A DAMN, which was an Official Selection at the Sundance Film Festival in 2009. ELECTRICK CHILDREN, which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival, is Thomas' debut feature film as a writer/director.

Electrick Children



Writer/Director Rebecca Thomas

Produced by Jessica Caldwell Richard Neustadter

Starring

Julia Garner Rory Culkin Liam Aiken Bill Sage Cynthia Watros Billy Zane John Patrick Amedori Rachel Pirard Cassidy Gard Paola Baldion

Saturday, March 14 at 6:30pm DIRECTOR IN ATTENDANCE

Rachel is a rambunctious teenager from a fundamentalist Mormon family in Utah. On Rachel's 15th birthday, she discovers a forbidden cassette tape with rock music on it. Having never heard anything like it, Rachel has a miraculous experience.

Three months later, Rachel turns up pregnant and claims to have had an immaculate conception from listening to the music. Rachel's parents arrange a marriage for Rachel, but Rachel runs away to the closest city, LAS VEGAS, to search for the man who sings on the cassette tape, thinking he has something to do with her mysterious pregnancy...

NEVADA FILMMAKERS

Screening Time: Saturday, March 14 at 6:30pm

A showcase of our local colleagues in the community, including students. This is also a mix of genres, and will kick-off with Rebecca Thomas's acclaimed feature, *Electrick Children*.

Electrick Children

Directed by: Rebecca Thomas **Running Time:** 01:36:00 Honorary Screening. Q&A with Director Rebecca Thomas will follow this screening.

Until Death

Directed by: Erica Chan Running Time: 00:06:42 A woman's fiancé commits suicide, and she must confront his possibly racist mother.



Until Death

Shadows on the Ceiling

Directed by: April Kagan **Running Time:** 00:3:25 A dreamy montage of a little girl whose imagination is set off by shadows. (NSC Student)



Ms. Understanding

Ms. Understanding

Directed by: Richard Santiago **Running Time:** 00:14:49 Two women recount their experiences with workplace bullying. (CSN Student)

Snap Shot Love

Directed by: Jenny Egidio **Running Time:** 00:05:05 "The course of true love never did run smooth." – William Shakespeare (UNLV Student)

Zayde

Directed by: Antonio Mendoza **Running Time:** 00:06:15 A grandfather lives in terrible isolation and loneliness.

Nevada Filmmakers



Good Grief

Without Wings

Directed by: Jo Meuris **Running Time: 00:03:40** A celebration of the human body in motion. (NSC Faculty)

Good Grief

Directed by: Kathrina Bognot **Running Time: 00:06:51** The everyday life of an idiosyncratic married couple is interrupted by the arrival of an unlikely guest at their door step. (UNLV Student)

Mind Palace

Directed by: Anastasia Weiss **Running Time: 00:07:06** BBC Sherlock-inspired dance film from Magical Madness Dance Theater.

That One Guy

Directed by: Kimberly Lowe **Running Time: 00:09:04** After a night of partying, a young woman struggles to wake the strange guy in her bed. (UNLV Student)

Red Angel Dragnet

Directed by: Adam Davis **Running Time: 00:40:00** What is the fate of a zombie post-post-apocalypse? This film is a collaboration between faculty and students of Nevada State College.

Love

Directed by: Maria Bartrum **Running Time: 00:19:43** Filmmaker explores the emotion of love by asking people what it means to them. (UNLV Student)

Nevada Filmmakers

Loon Woman

Directed by: Greg Benoit Running Time: 00:15:00 An adaptation of a scene from play with same name. The sister and daughter of a newly admitted mental patient confront each other in the hospital waiting area.



Loon Woman

The Things My Sister Taught Me

Directed by: Genevieve Elgrichi **Running Time:** 00:14:04 Childhood dynamics never really end. (UNLV Student)

Heart Shaped Glasses

Directed by: Costanza Castro **Running Time:** 00:05:48 The moment you realize what could have been.

The Push

Directed by: Penny Wiggins Running Time: 00:16:45 Decades after their heyday, two feuding former showgirls finally confront each other. (CSN Student)

Roos N More Zoo

Directed by: Wynda Knight **Running Time:** 00:02:30 A look at a hands-on local zoo. (NSC Student)

Clean Fury

Directed by: Kelly Schenk Running Time: 00:05:00 A housemaid must fight for her life after discovering a dark secret. (UNLV Student)

Project 3000

Directed by: April Awalt, Brenda Dalv

Running Time: 00:30:15 Teen homeless project: A Roof Over Every Child.

Red Dress

Directed by: Wassa Coulibaly **Running Time:** TBD A Wassa Coulibaly project.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS

This festival would not have been possible without the hard work from our volunteers and the support from our sponsors. The Executive Committee of the Inaugural Nevada Women's Film Festival thanks you!

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May May Luong

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