



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**2014 NASHVILLE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
TENNESSEE FIRST NARRATIVES AND SHORTS
April 17 - 26 Regal Green Hills Cinema 16 and Downtown Nashville
World Premiere
Blackout: On Swan Pond
The Identical
*Decade with an Unsigned Rock Band***

Nashville, TN - The Nashville Film Festival (NaFF) today announced the film line-up for Tennessee First Narrative and Short programs to be screened at the 45th annual Festival, scheduled for April 17 - 26 at Regal Green Hills Cinema 16 and downtown Nashville. These films were created by Tennessee filmmakers or were shot in Tennessee and will be screened throughout the festival. The program is named Tennessee First to highlight NaFF's commitment to Tennessee filmmakers.

The Tennessee First program is supported by the Tennessee Film Music and Entertainment Commission. "I am excited about our sponsorship of this year's Tennessee First program and our growing partnership with NaFF," said Bob Raines, Executive Director and board member of the Nashville Film Festival. "Our main focus is to support Tennessee Filmmakers and create opportunities for advancement within the entertainment industry, both statewide and abroad."

"We received more entries for Tennessee films than ever before in NaFF history," said Artistic Director Brian Owens. "In addition to *The Identical*, *Chasing Ghosts* and *When the World's On Fire* (announced in previous releases,) we are screening seven features in the Tennessee First Narrative Program, and 24 in the Tennessee First Shorts Program. Perhaps not surprisingly, more than half of the features relate to our music industry and tradition in some way," added Owens.

While most films will be screened at Regal Green Hills, a selection of the short films will be screened at the Nissan Multicultural Village (Walk of Fame Park,) 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 24th.

The Nashville Film Festival, like other major film festivals such as Sundance and Tribeca, is open to the public. Tickets may be purchased to over 200 events, including films, panel discussions and parties. NaFF brings in filmmakers, celebrities, and industry insiders to mingle with people who enjoy film on the big screen.

Tennessee First

The Ballad of Shovels & Rope | Director: Jace Freeman. USA. 72 minutes.
Starring: Cary Ann Hearst, Michael Trent.

Necessity is the mother of invention. Less is more. Make it work with what you've got. Two guitars, a junkyard drum kit, a handful of harmonicas, voices, and above all... songs. Hailing from Charleston, South Carolina, Shovels and Rope prefer to keep it simple.

Banjo Romantika: American Bluegrass Music & The Czech Imagination | Director: Shara Lange. USA. 65 minutes. During the summer of 2011, ethnomusicologist Lee Bidgood and filmmaker Shara K. Lange recorded bluegrass musicians around the Czech Republic. They were interested in telling the story of how this unique form of American music had become a meaningful and original sub-genre in this faraway and seemingly arbitrary country in Eastern Europe. What does bluegrass music have to do with Czechs?

Beautiful Jim | Director: Rex Jones. USA. 53 minutes.

The story of an HIV-positive singer-songwriter's triumph over AIDS. Jimbeau Hinson ('Fancy Free', 'Party Crowd') is a Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter living in Nashville, Tennessee who has been HIV-positive for over thirty years. He was also the first openly bisexual singer/songwriter in country music.

Blackout: On Swan Pond | Director: Scott Colthorp. USA. 95 minutes.

When a retention wall at a coal fired power plant spilled one billion tons of toxic ash into a small community in East Tennessee, Americans learned coal ash is a problem that has been ignored for decades. Blackout explores the growing energy crisis by examining one community that was affected by the ever increasing need for electricity. WORLD PREMIERE

Closer to God | Director: Billy Senese. USA. 84 minutes.

Starring: Jeremy Childs, Shannon Hoppe, Jake Speck, Isaac Disney

A genetic scientist successfully clones the first human being, a baby girl named Elizabeth, but his work is soon threatened by a dark secret, a secret that threatens to destroy everything and everyone precious to him. WORLD PREMIERE

A Decade With an Unsigned Rock Band | Director: Criss Cheatham. USA. 81 minutes.

For every famous rock band, there are thousands of acts that never make it. August Christopher is one of those bands, playing over 3000 shows in 14 years... But you've probably never heard of them. This documentary follows one band's journey--a real American Rock-N'-Roll story documented over the course of a ten year period.

Riser: Dierks Bentley | Director: Wes Edwards. USA. 45 minutes.

'Dierks Bentley: Riser' chronicles the ups and downs of the two-year period during the making of the new album, which kicked off with the death of Bentley's father and culminated with the birth of his first son, Knox.

Something, Anything | Director: Paul Harrill. USA. 88 minutes.

Starring: Bryce Johnson, Linds Edwards, Ashley Shelton, Jason Benjamin.

When her new marriage starts to disintegrate, a would-be suburban mom sets out on her own. But after receiving a postcard from a monk, her life turns upside down spiritually and romantically. SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Tennessee First Shorts

American Frenzy | Director: Brandon Langley. 7 minutes.

Starring: Bill Williams, Linds Edwards.

It is a hyperbolic anti-parable of the exploitation of our fears, the piggish plundering of the media news outlets, the birth of the ghost collective. It is an American frenzy.

Bear With Me | Director: Chad McClarnon. 2 minutes.

Starring: Katie Mercedes Insinger

Sunday afternoons are always better with a friend.

The Black Bird | Director: Jared Cooley. 14 minutes.

Starring: John Corbin

A young boy in elementary school becomes witness to a series of coincidences between his fellow classmates and a strange black bird that seems to target the next to die.

Devil's Damned to Try | Director: Marshall Burnette. 23 minutes.

Starring: Riley Anglen, James DeForest Parker, Daniel De Armas, Jake Arthur

A southern tale of lies well lived.

Each Time Again | Director: Kip Kubin. 15 minutes.

Starring: Alan Powell, Jack Reed, David Malus

Ben is a serial killer. As a boy he's shown a machine that wipes the slate clean and over the years he doesn't hesitate to use it. But one night a twist of fate leaves him fighting for life.

Elvis Loses His Excess & Other Tales from the World's Longest Yardsale | Director: Riley Hooper. 19 minutes.

Travel down US Highway 127 from Michigan to Alabama and meet the people at the world's longest yard sale -- an annual four-day, 690-mile exchange of not only goods but also narratives.

Embalmer's Gray | Director: Jennifer Bonior. 9 minutes.

Starring: Keri Pisapia

Dead or alive, running into an ex is never fun.

Goodfriends | Director: Jerod Hollyfield. 10 minutes.

Starring: Trey Anderson, Caroline Hebert, Joel Walker, Morgan Charlesworth

A disabled grocery store bagger deludes himself into believing the shallow niceties of those around him until given a chance at a genuine connection.

John's Farm | Director: Melissa Sweazy. 12 minutes.

Starring: Billie Worley, Caleb Sweazy, Leo Spunt, Savannah Bearden

When an anxious parent brings his son to John's Farm for an epic, 'free-range' playdate, he must decide whether or not to violate the farm's strict social contract to rescue his son from a potential threat.

Little Red | Director: Scott Crain. 9 minutes.

Starring: Jason Marsden, Harold Bagwell, Judy Jackson, Ryan Rehnberg

Set in the Old West, a band of outlaws learn the terrible dangers of straying from the path.

Lower Broads | Director: Drew Langer. 26 minutes.

Starring: Marin Miller, Heather Byrd, Leah Elmquist, Travis Nicholson

Two rival drunken, redneck bachelorette parties coverage at a downtown Nashville karaoke bar.

A Mold for Mortals | Director: Evan Caddell. 7 minutes.

Starring: Matt Bolton, C.M. Robinson, David Chattam

A short film about a window into three separate individuals. One who's life is beginning. One who's life is ending. And one who's life is lost.

Not a Statistic | Director: Shelby Hadden. 37 minutes.

Starring: Ellen Hollis, Tyler Reimschisel

Not a Statistic is about the Hollis family's daily struggle with mitochondrial disease, their fight to find a cure, and their passion to make a difference.

One Night | Director: Casey Cross. 12 minutes.

Starring: Emma Fitzpatrick, TJ McFarland

Musician Amy Wade returns to Nashville after many months on the road, and must come clean about a terrible mistake she has made.

Part of Your Heart | Director: Matteo Servente. 10 minutes.

Starring: Drew Smith

A guy walks into his mother's house, days after she passed, only to find a stranger living there.

Rust | Director: Blake Holland. 19 minutes.

Starring: Taylor Dupuis

Two strangers, remaining nameless, spend an evening together.

Self Offense | Director: Wendy Keeling. 15 minutes.

Starring: Wendy Keeling, Carla Christina Contreras, Rebecca Lines, Susannah Devereux, Levi Montgomery

Self Offense is the journey of four women victimized by abuse and violence.

Shadowland | Director: Steven Wesley Miller. 22 minutes.

Starring: Linds Edwards, Jessica Shipp

Civilization is at its end. America has been reduced to a land where only a few, strictly-governed communities still exist. All else is Shadowland.

Sorry About Tomorrow | Director: Motke Dapp. 8 minutes.

Starring: John Ferguson, Beth Mathews, Tim Arnold

Haunted by the actions of his past and hunted by men from the future, Baldwin attempts to stop the tragic state of events by going back in time to break up with the love of his life.

Straight Up: Tennessee Whiskey | Director: Eric Byford. 38 minutes.

Starring: Mike Williams, Pam Sutton, Jamey Grosser, Lee Kennedy

The story of Tennessee's inception as a whiskey producing state through the periods of Prohibition and forward to the law change in 2009.

Streets of Florence | Director: Phillip Dixon. 10 minutes.

Starring: Clet Abraham, Claudio Spadi

Streets of Florence is a short documentary about three artists in Florence, Italy who work in the streets of this city of renaissance.

To Be Loved | Director: Chris St.Croix. 28 minutes.

Starring: Justin Hand, Jayne Salters, Vince Cusomato, Chris Cavolo

In this twisted, dark comedy a lonely man is promised true love, but it comes at a bloody price.

To Bloom (Sbocciare) | Director: Jaclyn Edmonson. 9 minutes.

Starring: Silvia Logi

Sbocciare is an inspiring piece that tells the story of a Florentine woman who fiercely pursues her "art within" despite the odds that were surely against her.

Wonder | Director: Mark Brown. 3 minutes.

Starring: Emma Watson

Wonder, in its most concise terms, is a short story capturing and embellishing the pure awe felt for the natural world as a child.

About Nissan North America

In North America, Nissan's operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. Nissan is dedicated to improving the environment under the Nissan Green Program and has been recognized as an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency. More information on Nissan in North America and the complete line of Nissan and Infiniti vehicles can be found online at www.NissanUSA.com and www.InfinitiUSA.com, or visit the Americas media sites NissanNews.com and InfinitiNews.com.

About the Nashville Film Festival

[Nashville Film Festival](http://www.nashvillefilmfestival.org) (NaFF), April 17 - 26, presented by Nissan, brings the world to Nashville in an extended 10-day celebration of film. NaFF is in two locations for the first time: Regal Green Hills Stadium 16 with 200 competition films, educational presentations and parties, and downtown at Nissan Multicultural Village, Walk of Fame Park with free outdoor films nightly and Happy Hour Shorts at Festival Pub. NaFF is a public festival attended by filmmakers and industry insiders and an Academy Award Qualifying Event for short films. In addition to Nissan, NaFF is sponsored by Comcast/Xfinity, Cabedge Design, Regal Entertainment Group, Southwest Airlines, Tennessee Arts Commission and Metro Arts of Nashville. The Festival annually garners notice from the Associated Press, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal online, MovieMaker Magazine, Film Festival Today, IndieWire, Variety, Billboard, New York and Script Magazine.

Film info and photos: www.nashvillefilmfestival.org/press