

Why Limit Date Night To One Night? OFFA's 2nd Annual International Women's Day Screening Series Offers Outstanding Films All Month Long!

February 2022 - Oakville, ON - The Oakville Festivals of Film and Art (OFFA) is proud to announce the launch of their 2nd annual International Women's Day Screening Series. Organizers have carefully curated an impressive line-up of exceptional films. Helmed by four talented female directors, from Canada, Malta, the USA, and the UK, these films highlight the official themes for #IWD 2022: #BreaktheBias, and gender equality. In partnership with United Way Halton/Hamilton-Women United, OFFA selected movies whose themes advocated for the mental health and well-being, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. The event is sponsored by Capstick McCollum & Associates.

The film series will be presenting four divergent stories that span 100 years of women's struggles and achievements, offering intimate, personal reflections on important social issues in our communities. Highlights include the challenges faced by new immigrants, particularly young women and their families adapting to life in Canada; issues faced by BIPOC communities confronting racism (*Alice and Quickening*), as well as ageism, sexism, class structure, and gender equality (*Mothering Sunday and Carmen*). Following the screenings, viewers will be treated to live or pre-recorded, virtual, Q&A's with the Directors, and others from the films.

Following the lengthy pandemic restrictions that proved challenging for most community-based events, OFFA is proud of the continued support that event sponsor, Capstick McCollum and Associates, as well as reception sponsor Cowbell Brewing Co., are providing, giving immeasurable reinforcement for local film and arts celebrations. Cowbell Brewing Co. is offering 10% of IWD Craft Beer Packages to Women United. See special packages https://example.com/herealth/packages/hereal

To compliment this year's IWD Film Series, OFFA will include four musical performances. Each of the four screenings will open with their own featured musician(s) performing a complimentary song for the film. The four featured screenings include:

Mothering Sunday - (Drama, Director Eva Husson, UK, 2021) Thursday 3 March 7:30 pm LIVE at Film.ca (content warning: this film is rated R in the USA for graphic nudity and sexuality) This film will be accompanied by a LIVE musical performance by Hyun-Young Ju. For this screening, ticket holders will need to present proof of vaccination to enter the theatre, and be required to wear a mask, unless consuming purchased popcorn and/or drinks or sampling Cowbell craft beer.

<u>Quickening</u> –10th March 7:30 pm- (Drama, Director Sheridan Alumni Haya Waseem, Canada, 2021) available on our Eventive Platform for 7 days to watch (48 hours once you begin watching). This film will be accompanied by a musical performance by <u>Natasha Meister</u>. Pre-recorded Q&A included with Director and Sheridan Alumni Haya Waseem, and actress Arooj Azeem (plays Sheila).

<u>Alice</u> – 17th March 7:30 pm – (Thriller, Director Krystin Ver Linden, USA, 2022) available on our Eventive Platform for 7 days to watch (48 hours once you begin watching). This film will be accompanied by a musical performance by <u>Simone MCQ</u>. Live Q&A with Director Krystin Ver Linden and others TBC.

<u>Carmen</u> – 24th March 7:30pm (Drama/Comedy) Director Valerie Buhagiar, Canada/Malta, 2021) available on our Eventive Platform for 7 days to watch (48 hours once you begin watching). This film will be accompanied by a musical performance by <u>Women In Song</u>. Live Q&A with Maltese-Canadian Director Valerie Buhagiar.

<u>Passes</u> to all four films can be purchased for \$54.99 (plus taxes and fees), \$15 of which OFFA will donate to <u>UWHH - Women United</u>. Passes include: 1 live film screening (at Film.ca on Thursday March 3rd at 7:30 pm) and three virtual screenings, all available for 7 days (48 hours once you begin watching) all on the Eventive Platform. Individual tickets for each film are available for \$12.99 (plus taxes).

For more information about the festival, film screenings, and exclusive Q&A's, please visit: OFFA.ca.

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To access bios, movie posters, and logos, please visit our Media Gallery.

To schedule an interview with Festival Co-Founder, Wendy Donnan, request an interview with one of the film directors, actors, or producers, or to request a media pass, please contact:

Colleen McCourt, Media relations, Front Door PR

Email: colleen@frontdoorpr.com

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ABOUT OFFA

Established in 2014, OFFA is a cultural not-for-profit that envisions a community of cultural and artistic diversity with the cinematic arts as a focal point. OFFA produces Oakville's only independent film festival which is <u>now in its 9th year</u>, and is now a hybrid festival, featuring live and digital events. For more information on this year's 9th annual hybrid festival which is set to happen June 22-28th the longest festival yet at seven days and over 100 films, please visit OFFA.ca. @oakvillefestivals #OFFAonline #OakvilleFilmFestival

ABOUT WOMEN UNITED

As an integral part of United Way, Women United advocates for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. Women United are a diverse, vibrant community, bound together by the powerful sense of belonging – to each other, to the organization's mission, and to the communities we call home. Their powerful network of women leaders stand united against the most critical issues facing our Halton & Hamilton communities. For more information, visit https://www.uwhh.ca/womenunited/ or contact womenunited/ or contact https://w