



Artis—Naples Naples International Film Festival

Home of The Baker Museum & Naples Philharmonic

For Immediate Release

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ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES RICHARD AND CHRISTINE LUBLIN AS 2024 NAPLES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTING SPONSORS

Naples, FL (October 18, 2024) – Artis—Naples is pleased to announce Dr. Richard Lublin and Christine Lublin as presenting sponsors of the 16th annual Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), scheduled for October 24-27, 2024. Screenings and events will take place on the Artis—Naples Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus and, for the first time this year, at Alamo Drafthouse Cinema at Mercato.

“Richard and Christine have been integral supporters of NIFF at the highest level, and their generosity year after year ensures that this festival continues to flourish,” said Artis—Naples CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. “This leadership commitment elevates the experience for filmmakers, audiences and the entire Southwest Florida community. Their participation supports independent cinema and contributes to the festival’s ongoing growth. We are deeply grateful for their vision and dedication.”

A former attorney and seasoned actor in both film and television, Richard Lublin remains a passionate advocate for independent cinema. His extensive experience in the entertainment world has given him a deep appreciation for the challenges faced by independent filmmakers.

“For many filmmakers, festivals like NIFF are the only opportunities to showcase their work to a broader audience,” Richard said. “This festival has built a strong reputation over the years, and Christine and I are proud to support its mission of fostering creativity and giving filmmakers the chance to connect with peers and audiences alike.”

Christine echoed Richard’s sentiments, expressing her enthusiasm for this year’s festival. “It’s always a thrill to see the passion and dedication these filmmakers bring to their projects,” she said. “NIFF has an incredible way of connecting creators with film lovers, and the excitement at the festival is contagious. I am eager to see how this year’s festival sparks even more meaningful conversations and creativity.”

This year’s festival kicks off on October 24 with a screening of *Opening Night Shorts: New Perspectives*, a dynamic collection of six short films. The festival concludes on October 27 with a special screening of Tim Burton’s *Batman* (1989) featuring a live performance of Danny Elfman’s iconic score by Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly and the Naples Philharmonic. On Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26, audiences can enjoy the popular “Screenings Under the Stars” in Norris Garden on the Artis—Naples cultural campus. This year’s festival features 58 films, including 10 narrative features, 12 documentaries and 36 short films, representing 26 countries. All screenings will occur in Hayes Hall, Norris Garden or Alamo Drafthouse Cinema.

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and Sharon and Timothy Ubben Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley, Artis—Naples offers more than 800 paid and free events annually across its 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida’s arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around Southwest Florida. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors. Following a successful designate year in 2023-24, Alexander Shelley begins his new role as artistic and music director in the 2024-25 season. Renowned violinist James Ehnes continues as artistic partner through the 2024-25 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry. Podium leadership also includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 15 years in this role in the 2024-25 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music across genres.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is the foremost fine art museum in Southwest Florida, presenting an ambitious slate of exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum’s broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect particular strengths in modern art of the United States and Mexico. The Baker Museum's collections reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors, including significant gifts from the collection of the late Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is committed to the stewardship and scholarship of its collections and to fostering inspiring and transformative experiences with the visual arts. At the same time, The Baker Museum partners with the world’s leading arts institutions to make extraordinary exhibitions accessible to the Southwest Florida community—including recently the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. In 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the renovation and expansion of The Baker Museum and adjoining Norris Garden, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, which created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages in Collier and Lee counties. Each season, thousands of Collier County Public School students interact with Artis—Naples education programming, both on our cultural campus and in their classrooms. Beyond our commitment to youth education, the Lifelong Learning program provides informative lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, comprised of more than 3,500 donor households, offers activities, travel experiences and events designed to foster a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival’s continued excellence and growth. In 2023, the festival’s 15th anniversary year, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine’s “20 Great Film Festivals in Vacation Destinations.”

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