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www.manhattanfilmstitute.com

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Contact: Carrie Miller 631-276-8855

**Sixth annual Manhattan Film Institute kicks off July 2nd
Scholarship Winner and Q&A Celebrity Screenings Announced**

Award-winning actors and directors will soon set focus on the North Fork, joining aspiring filmmakers and actors from across the country and around the world for the Manhattan Film Institute's sixth annual North Fork Summer Workshop series. The series takes place July 2th through the 16th offering courses in cinematography, writing, editing, acting and directing.

Members of the public are invited to join these celebrity film experts for two free Q&A screenings hosted by Peconic Landing. During each screening, an actor, writer or director from the film will be on hand to answer questions and speak about their experience with the film.

Founded by writer, actor and producer Tony Spiridakis, and his partner, Lisa Gillooly, The Manhattan Film Institute is a boutique conservatory that pairs world-class faculty with aspiring film professionals, helping to mentor the next generation of filmmakers.

"We get to bring world-class artists to our idyllic corner of the world," said Spiridakis, who grew up spending summers in Southold, and now lives in Orient full-time.

Classes take place at Peconic Landing's historic Brecknock Hall, with scenes being shot throughout the Village of Greenport – showcasing a number of local businesses.

"Hosting the Manhattan Film Institute is an exciting addition to our Cultural Arts program here at Peconic Landing, and we invite our neighbors to come meet these well-known artists," said Peconic Landing president and CEO Robert J. Syron. "This year, a select group of members will be taking part in the workshops to create a unique, multigenerational atmosphere. We look forward to seeing what they create together."

The two LIVE Q&A sessions will take place at the Peconic Landing Community Center, open to the public and free to all. Registration is required at <http://peconiclanding.ticketleap.com/>.

- "My Name is Doris" starring Sally Field

Thursday, July 13 | 7:30 PM at Peconic Landing

Enjoy a Q&A with Sundance Award Winner Daniela Taplin Lundberg, producer of the film.

Lundberg is known for "The Kids Are All Right" (2010), "Beasts of No Nation" (2015) and "What

Maisie Knew" (2012). She is the winner of the Sundance Audience Award, for "Grace is Gone" (2007). Registration required at peconiclanding.ticketleap.com

- *"A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints"* starring: Robert Downey Jr., Shia LaBeouf, Rosario Dawson, Chazz Palminteri, Dianne Wiest and Channing Tatum

Saturday, July 15 | 7:30 PM at Peconic Landing

Enjoy a Q&A with Chazz Palminteri and Sundance Award Winner Dito Montiel, who wrote the screenplay (based on his book of the same title) and directed the film.

Registration required at peconiclanding.ticketleap.com

During the hands-on workshop, the students will create a number of short films to be screened for the first time at the Greenport Movie Theater Sunday, July 16 at 10 a.m. These screenings are also open to the public and free of charge.

Instructors leading this summer's workshop hold major film and television credentials, and include: Bob Krakower, Chazz Palminteri, Wendy Makkena, Shannon Goldman and founder Tony Spiridakis.

Each year, MFI and Peconic Landing team up to award a scholarship to a local aspiring filmmaker, and this year there are two winners, Rosario Rodriguez of Greenport, and Alex Bradley of Mattituck.

"I feel really blessed to have been given the opportunity to do this program with and learn from professionals like Tony and Lisa. MFI and Peconic Landing are giving someone an opportunity to do something they might not otherwise have. It is just incredible to have been chosen," said Rosario Rodriguez, a Greenport High School alumni who has created works following the lives of local farm workers and her father's migration from Guatemala to the United States at age 18, among other projects.

Participating in the North Fork summer program serves as a springboard for aspiring actors and directors like Rosario and Alex, helping them gain entrance to the top film schools in the country, and one step closer to reaching their dreams.

"My goal one day is to travel around the world, to go back to my community in Central America and film and show people the struggles that really occur in third world countries," said Rosario. "I want people to understand what it is really like, to be aware. Being aware of the things happening in these countries and that the only way we can make a change for the better."

The organization has set out to increase the scholarship program through private donations and has set up a "donate now" button on the MFI home page. Interested donors can visit <http://www.manhattanfilminstitute.com> to learn more about the program.

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