



**Media Contact:**  
Valerie Cisneros  
[marketing@enzian.org](mailto:marketing@enzian.org)  
407-629-1088 x302

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**29TH ANNUAL FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL DEAFBLIND EVENT  
AND FILMMAKER FORUMS**

**Orlando, FL** – (August 5, 2020) – The Florida Film Festival is pleased to announce *The Feeling Through Experience*, streaming live on the "[Feeling Through](#)" [YouTube Channel](#), Thursday, August 13 at 7 p.m. EST. *The Feeling Through Experience* promotes DeafBlind awareness and authentic DeafBlind representation in media, and is presented by Full Sail University.

Created by Doug Roland, in partnership with the Helen Keller National Center, *The Feeling Through Experience* is a three-part, fully accessible screening event, which includes the first film to star a DeafBlind actor, followed by a supporting documentary and panel discussion with the DeafBlind community. The short film [Feeling Through](#) is also playing as a part of [Shorts #1: Grievances](#).

- **PART 1: Feeling Through - (18 minutes)**  
A coming of age film about the unlikely connection between a teen in need and a DeafBlind man. It is the first film ever to feature a DeafBlind actor in a lead role.
- **PART 2: Connecting the Dots - (24 minutes)**  
A documentary following the journey of making *Feeling Through* and the search for the DeafBlind man who inspired it.
- **PART 3: Engaging the Community - (45 minutes)**  
An integral part of *The Feeling Through Experience* is bringing the DeafBlind community and other communities together to discuss the films' various themes as well as topics related to the DeafBlind community. This portion of the event includes a panel discussion and Q&A with:
  - - Doug Roland (creator)
  - - Robert Tarango (DeafBlind actor)
  - - Local members/organizations from the DeafBlind community

Registration for this free online event can be found [here](#). View the event's promotional trailer [here](#), and additional marketing assets [here](#).

In addition to *The Feeling Through Experience*, the Florida Film Festival will also host several free virtual filmmaker forums to compliment the films featured in the 29<sup>th</sup> annual event. All filmmaker forums will be available to view on the [Florida Film Festival YouTube Channel](#). Publication dates are posted below.

“One of the hallmarks of the Florida Film Festival has always been the incredible support we receive from accepted filmmakers that attend the festival, who provide unique insight into their projects. With all the uncertainty in the world today, we wanted to preserve that experience,” says Programming Coordinator, Tim Anderson. “By collecting over 40 of our filmmakers together through these Zoom sessions, we have the opportunity not only to talk about their work, but to give them the chance to comment on each other’s films without the usual 10-minute Q&A in-person time limits. I think these Filmmaker Forums provide a really unique opportunity this year to allow these artists to even further showcase their projects and provide our audience with an expanded understanding of the filmmaking process.”

## **2020 VIRTUAL FILMMAKER FORUMS:**

### **Shorts #1 (Publication Date: August 9<sup>th</sup>)**

The FFF is excited to welcome Zachary Grady & Jenn Harris (*Island Queen*), Doug Roland (*Feeling Though*), Yi Tang (*Black Goat*), Brook Trantor & Kate Morgan Chadwick (*Oh, Baby!*), and Adam Meeks (*Union County*) to this virtual forum to discuss their 2020 Florida Film Festival competition narrative shorts. Sponsored by: Orlando Film Commission.

### **Shorts #2 (Publication Date: August 10<sup>th</sup>)**

The FFF is excited to welcome Quinn Else (*Fort Irwin*), Talia Osteen (*The Shabbos Goy*), Bridget Moloney (*Blocks*) and Beck Kitsis (*The Three Men You Meet at Night*) to this virtual forum to discuss their 2020 Florida Film Festival competition narrative shorts. Sponsored by: Orlando Film Commission.

### **Animated Shorts (Publication Date: August 13<sup>th</sup>)**

The FFF is excited to welcome Anna Samo & Lisa LaBracio (*The Opposites Game*), Anca Valsan (*Lizard Queen*), Grier Dill (*The Message From Space*), Ethan Wellin (*Destination: Unknown*), Frank Volk (*Things Happen Because*), Greg Yagolnitzer (*Walt*), Jake Fried (*Brain Wave*), Zandria Ross (*Doll Story*), and Bernardo Britto (*Hudson Geese*) to this virtual forum to discuss their 2020 Florida Film Festival competition animated shorts. Sponsored by: Orlando Film Commission.

### **Shorts #3 (Publication Date: August 16<sup>th</sup>)**

The FFF is excited to welcome Nicole Delaney (*Thirsty*), Alex Kavutskiy (*Ear Ache*), Jessie Kahnweiler (*He’s the One*), Jennifer LaFleur (*Baby Kate*) and Matthew Bonifacio & Julianna Gelinias Bonifacio (*Master Maggie*) to this virtual forum to discuss their 2020 Florida Film Festival competition narrative shorts. Sponsored by: Orlando Film Commission.

### **Shorts #4 (Publication Date: August 17<sup>th</sup>)**

The FFF is excited to welcome Moira Fett (*Practice*), Jacob Halpren (*Claire at Seven Months*), Betsy Kenney & Dara Katz (*Tapes*), Rachel Harrison Gordon (*Broken Bird*) and Michael Vukadinovich (*The Priest*) to this virtual forum to discuss their 2020 Florida Film Festival competition narrative shorts. Sponsored by: Orlando Film Commission.

### **Filmmaker Spotlight: Ashley Williams – Meats (Shorts #4) (Publication Date: August 17<sup>th</sup>)**

In this special Filmmaker Forum, FFF Programming Coordinator Tim Anderson talks one-on-one with actress turned writer/director Ashley Williams (*Something Borrowed, How I Met Your Mother*) about her provocative debut short film, *Meats*. Sponsored by: Orlando Film Commission.

### **Shorts #5 (Publication Date: August 18<sup>th</sup>)**

The FFF is excited to welcome Devon Diffenderfer (*Love You Tyler*), Tomas Gomez Bustillo & Gewan Brown (*Museum of Fleeting Wonders*), Kyle C. Mumford (*The Door*), Tyler Macri (*Pond*), Kevin P.

Alexander (*Boys & Toys*), Michael Shumway & Lex Hogan (*The Last Queen on Earth*), and April Nations (*Gilt*) to this virtual forum to discuss their 2020 Florida Film Festival competition narrative shorts. Sponsored by: Orlando Film Commission.

## 2020 FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, the Florida Film Festival is an Oscar®-qualifying festival, premiering the best in current, independent, and international cinema. Through ten days of 170+ films and first-class events, film lovers mingle with filmmakers and celebrities over hand-crafted cocktails and a locally-sourced menu.

***“Now having attended several top festivals, I can confidently say Florida has THE best programming of all of them. THANK YOU for what you do and the care and thought you use to make your film fest what it is. Obviously, changed my life!”*** – Megan Seeley, Filmmaker

***“Thank you so much for such an excellent juror experience! It was a great week. The festival was so well programmed and everything was so organized, and people were so friendly. I am so glad that I was able to serve on the jury after all these years. It was worth the wait.”*** – Cynthia Wade, Oscar-winning Filmmaker and Juror

***“I’m not blowing smoke! This was really a wonderful festival experience. I loved it and was impressed with all aspects of it. I especially love the energy or spirit with which everything was handled – I felt a genuine passion for film and filmmakers that, of course, should be at every festival, but unfortunately is not.”*** – Alix Lambert, Filmmaker

***“The Florida Film Festival has become my favorite festival to attend. The staff is so friendly, personable, and truly enthusiastic about what they do. Their taste in film is the best. I can’t get over how organized and knowledgeable the volunteers are. It’s a laid back and well-oiled machine.”*** – Brian Lonano, Filmmaker

***“[We] had a great time at the festival. We’ve been to a few festivals with the film, and Florida is one of our favorites!”*** – Academy Award® winner Ron Judkins, Filmmaker

***“Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for having me down to the festival. What an absolute treat it was! It was a truly wonderful four days and I can say honestly that I don’t think there was single clunker among the 16+ hours of films we screened. That’s pretty impressive!”*** – Andrew Carlin, Juror (Oscilloscope)

***“I may be biased (considering the FFF was the first festival I’ve ever participated in) but I really think it might be the best festival ever. The energy is so great, the venue is fantastic, and I have such an appreciation for how organized and thoughtful you guys were. I came back to Beirut and said ‘I need to make another film this year to go back next year.’”*** – Amanda Bailly, Filmmaker

The Festival is a program of the non-profit Enzian Theater. 2020 Festival sponsors to date include:

**Primary Sponsor:** Full Sail University

**Primary Public Partners:** Orange County Government, Florida Department of State Division of

Cultural Affairs

**Public Partner:** United Arts of Central Florida

**Premiere:** Lure Design Incorporated, Wyndham Destinations

**Major:** Charles Schwab, Deeb Studios, FilmFreeway, Laughing Samurai, Movebooth, Orlando Film Commission, Sheraton Orlando North, T-Mobile, Winter Park Village

**Supporting:** Antonio's Ristorante Maitland, Coterie Coffee Co., Dorman Financial Management, Film Florida, Ivanhoe Park Brewing, Killgore, Pearlman, Semanie, Denius & Squires, P.A., The New Standard, Sierra Nevada, Co., Terrapin Beer Co., Tito's Handmade Vodka

**Media Partners:** Bungalower, Edible Orlando, iHeartMedia, Orlando Arts, Orlando LIVE, Orlando Sentinel, Orlando Weekly, Watermark, WESH, WPRK, Yelp

Our sponsor community enriches the festival experience and helps sustain the year-round programs of the not-for-profit Enzian.

### **Enzian**

Since 1992, Enzian has been the proud host of the Florida Film Festival. As part of its mission to entertain, inspire, educate, and connect the community through film, Enzian presents innovative and original cinematic programming not just during the Festival, but all year long. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-supported arts organization for which ticket revenue accounts for only 25% of its operating budget, Enzian owes its existence to the generosity of fans of film, food, and fun--like you. [Enzian.org](http://enzian.org)

### **Full Sail University:**

Full Sail University is an award-winning educational leader for those pursuing careers in entertainment, media, arts and technology. Founded in 1979, Full Sail has received accolades throughout its history, including most recently: One of the 2017 "Top Graduate & Undergraduate Schools to Study Game Design" by The Princeton Review, one of the 2016 "Top 25 Music Schools" by The Hollywood Reporter, and one of the 2016 "Top 50 Film Schools" by The Wrap Magazine. The Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges also named Full Sail the 2016 "School/College of the Year."

Full Sail University is a graduate and undergraduate degree-granting institution offering on-campus and online degree programs in areas related to Art & Design, Business, Film & Television, Games, Media & Communications, Music & Recording, Sports, and Technology. With over 60,000+ graduates worldwide, Full Sail alumni have worked on countless award-winning projects with individual recognition including OSCAR®, Emmy®, GRAMMY®, ADDY®, MTV Video Music Award, and Video Game Award honors.

[www.fullsail.edu](http://www.fullsail.edu)

[www.twitter.com/fullsail](https://www.twitter.com/fullsail)

[www.facebook.com/fullsailuniversity](https://www.facebook.com/fullsailuniversity)

Follow [Florida Film Festival](#) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

###