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Windrider Film Forum Bay Area Returns July 6 - 8, 2017 Presenting Six Uplifting and Powerful Independent Films

Films to be screened at The Center for the Performing Arts at Menlo-Atherton

Atherton, CA, June 6, 2017 -- Windrider Bay Area Film Forum today announced its program of feature films, short films, and interactive discussions for its July 6 - 8 program to be held at The Center for Performing Arts at Menlo-Atherton. Tickets are on sale now for immediate purchase at windriderbayarea.org/tickets/.

This year's forum will open and close with feature-length films, and the Friday program will feature four dynamic short films, including the Forum's first animated presentation, the award-winning "SOAR."

"I am thrilled with this year's program, and can't wait to introduce the films and the filmmakers to our community," says Terri Bullock, Director of Windrider Bay Area. "We are honored to host this exceptional array of films and look forward to the conversations they'll inspire. Part of the success of this film forum is due to the quality of the questions at the Q&A's from our intelligent, caring, insightful audience. And, part of the joy of bringing these films to this community is knowing they will appreciate the immense talent of these filmmakers."

To learn more about the films or ticketing information, visit windriderbayarea.org.

THE MUSIC OF STRANGERS: YO-YO MA AND THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE

Thursday, July 6, 7 PM

This beautiful and inspirational film tracks the formation and travels of the Silk Road Ensemble, a multicultural music group formed by the world-famous cellist, Yo-Yo Ma. "I'm always trying to figure out, at some level, who I am and how I fit in the world, which I think is something that I share with seven billion other people," Mr. Ma says early in the film. **Haruka Fujii**, a percussionist from the Ensemble, and **Eduardo A. Braniff**, the Ensemble's Executive Director, will attend the screening and join the audience in conversation following the film.

SHORTS PROGRAM

Friday, July 7, 7 PM

The shorts program opens with **TEEN PRESS**, a documentary chronicling the journalism program of the same name, created by two innovative, committed Santa Barbara teachers. Filmmaker **T.C. Johnstone** will join the audience conversation to follow. “Teen Press” has been recognized with the 2015 Heartland Film Festival Audience Choice Award and the 2015 Virginia Film Festival Audience Choice Award.

DEKALB ELEMENTARY, a dramatization of an actual 911 call, presents the story of a troubled young man who enters the school with a rifle and the school receptionist who responds with compassion and heroism. **Reed Van Dyk**, filmmaker, will be present for Q&A. “DeKalb Elementary” is the winner of the 2017 SXSW Special Jury Award.

The program then turns to imagination and wonder with the presentation of the award-winning whimsical **SOAR**, with the engaging young filmmaker **Alyce Tzue** joining us in conversation. “SOAR” is the winner of the 2015 Gold Medal Student Academy Award.

The short program concludes with **NOCTURNE IN BLACK**, winner of the 2016 Gold Medal Student Academy Award, a harrowing story of a young pianist in a Jihadist-controlled, war-torn neighborhood in Syria where the dictates of Sharia law have made music forbidden. Producer **Felicia Hunter** will be with us to join in conversation.

STEP

Saturday, July 8, 7 PM

STEP is the true-life story of a girls’ high-school step dance team against the background of the heart of Baltimore. These young women learn to laugh, love and thrive – on and off the stage – even when the world seems to work against them. Empowered by their teachers, teammates, counselors, coaches and families, they chase their ultimate dreams: to win a step championship and to be accepted into college. Filmmaker **Amanda Lipitz**, Director of College Counseling **Paula Dofat**, Step Dance Coach **Gari McIntyre**, and three members of the STEP team, **Tayla Solomon**, **Cori Grainger**, and **Blessin Giraldo**, will all be in attendance for Q&A following the film.

About Windrider Bay Area Film Forum

This is Windrider Bay Area’s 8th season of bringing thought-provoking, independent films to the Peninsula community. The Windrider Film Forum takes participants on a journey, exploring our common humanity imaginatively and compassionately, through film. Many filmmakers have become the conscience in our culture, creating films that do more than simply entertain us. Windrider works to find independent feature length and short films exploring the human condition with creativity and respect, hoping to inspire meaningful discussions, and to motivate its audience to respond actively and constructively.

EVENT DETAILS

Thursday, July 6, 2017, 7 PM

Friday, July 7, 2017, 7 PM

Saturday, July 8, 2017 7 PM

The Center for the Performing Arts at Menlo-Atherton
555 Middlefield Road, Atherton, CA 94027
windriderbayarea.org

Tickets:

\$15 general admission; \$10 student admission

On sale in advance at windriderbayarea.org and in person at the door

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High resolution images available for download at www.windriderbayarea.org/press.