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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Art Effect Presents the Reel Expressions International Film Festival – Free for Under 21**

**POUGHKEEPSIE, NY** – Celebrating its seventh year, the [Reel Expressions International Film Festival](#) features a variety of short films created by emerging filmmakers from the Hudson Valley and around the world. Reel Expressions takes place on Saturday, April 6th from 5:00pm-7:30pm at the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market St, Poughkeepsie, NY. Doors open at 5:00pm, with light refreshments and cinemagraphic photo ops, and the film showcase begins promptly at 5:30pm.

Out of over 100 films submitted and judged by a panel of industry professionals and local youth producers, only 15 made the final cut for the festival. These short films express the voices of up-and-coming filmmakers, while addressing issues like political commentary, gender and identity, mental and physical health, and more.

Festival goers can expect to see documentaries, experimental films, animations, and dramas in this year's lineup. Finalists from all over the world produced films for the festival, with pieces made in South Korea, Spain, Canada, and the United States — including films created by youth in Poughkeepsie.

The full lineup of films in the showcase has been confirmed and is attached to this release.

Winners will be announced at the end of the screening, where they will be awarded cash prizes and a Sparky Trophy, with first prize taking home \$500. Before viewing the films, festival goers can enjoy dynamic media activities, light refreshments, and giveaways.

This showcase encourages youth creativity, invigorates our local community through the arts, and showcases the incredible work done by the next generation of media-makers. This festival is created for audiences at least 13 years of age. Tickets are free for individuals under 21, with a suggested donation of \$10 for adults. For free tickets for under 21, visit [tinyurl.com/reff2019](http://tinyurl.com/reff2019). For paid tickets, visit [feelthearteffect.org/REFF](http://feelthearteffect.org/REFF).

**About The Art Effect:** The Art Effect empowers young people to harness their creative voice in order to shape their future and bring about positive social change. Formerly Mill Street Loft and Spark Media Project, The Art Effect helps youth in the Hudson Valley explore, experience, and excel in the arts, introducing them to visual art and media, giving them opportunities to get their hands dirty, and guiding them towards achieving their academic and career goals. For more information, visit [feelthearteffect.org](http://feelthearteffect.org).





**The 2019 Reel Expressions International Film Festival Showcase:**

***The Edge*** by Nancy Coates - Poughkeepsie, NY, United States

***Day 54*** by Thomas Bullen – Canada (Filmed in Doha, Qatar)

***Dear America*** by Molly E. Smith, Sage Croft – Montverde, FL, United States

***Due Process*** by Gabriel P Braden – Wyandotte, MI, United States

***I'm Human Too*** by Jonathan Landeros – Salt Lake City, UT, United States

***The Island of Music*** by Lily Annenberg – Los Angeles, CA, United States

***Lock Down*** by Emma McCabe, Matthew Simone-Hamilton – Poughkeepsie, NY, United States

***Margo*** by Amelia Maxham, Libby Slaughter, Ben Clark, Summers Worthington, Johnny Krosby-Groner, Jhael J. Rasheed, Victoria Stiefvater, Conrad Heins, Nicholas Tennery, Jago Gould – Charlottesville, VA, United States

***My Name is Malik*** by Maddie Nagler, Calia Christie, Victor Bui – Brookline, MA, United States

***No Match*** by Zoe Cohen, Alex Flam, Emma Kaufman, Amelia Milstein, Elesia Cooper, Piper Carter - Charlottesville, VA, United States

***Sanguine*** by Cade Langsdon – Salt Lake City, UT, United States

***The South Korean Race*** by Anne Lee, Abigail Oh – Republic of Korea

***The stone, the peak and the brick*** by Students of CINEMA KIDS – Madrid, Spain

***things we do when we're alone (because we are real without you)*** by Tessa Hill – Toronto, Canada