



**NEW**  
**OHIO**  
theatre

**NY Indie Theatre**  
**Film Festival**

**Feb 6-9, 2020**



## FESTIVAL PROGRAM

### OPENING NIGHT

Thursday, Feb. 6

7 PM

#### A reading of

#### Polly Freed

Written and directed by Brooke Berman

Brooklyn bar owner Polly Freed heads to Libertyville, IL, to attend the funeral of one of her mother's ex-husbands. There, she is reunited with with her older, married ex-step-brother, a conservative Christian family man.

With Annie Parisse, Paul Sparks, Sadie Seelert, Alysia Reiner, Jamie Harrold, Austin Ku, Clara Young, Becca Lish, Sebastian Martinez, Julienne Kim, Erin Gann, Kyra Bowie

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Thursday, Feb. 6

9 PM

#### Opening Night Party!

Open beer and wine bar for the first hour.

Beer lovingly provided by Gunhill Brewing Company

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Friday, Feb. 7

7 PM

#### Screening Block #1

#### Love in NY (sel. from Season 2)

co-cr. Matthew Russell + Sven Jähnert

A rotating cast of characters search for love against the chaos of New York in this comedic series of 1-minute, episodic shorts. *Comedy, Web Series*

#### Uggs For Gaza

wr. + dir. Brooke Berman

New to LA, Mitch tells a lie to impress a hot girl at a party and, plagued by guilt, seeks to make the lie true. A gentle satire about the culture of "help" -- and well-meaning white people getting shit wrong. *Comedy*

### **Under the Weather (Pilot)**

co-wr. Katie Sammis + Miriam Weiner, dir. Miriam Weiner

Miriam is seduced by two sexy strangers who have conflicting theories of how to survive the climate crisis. She totally hates being hot. She totally loves her stuff. What do we do?

*Dark Comedy, Web Series*

### **Showing Up**

wr. Guy Olivieri, dir. Neil Fennell

New York Premiere

No one can break your heart unless for a time they've held it in their hands. Once someone truly loves you - even if it ends badly - they're your family. Forever. *Drama,*

*Romance*

### **Next Level Shit**

wr. + dir. Gary Jaffe

A perfectionist prepares obsessively for his big third date with Mr. Right, but his efforts backfire, sending the relationship spiraling into a whole new level of intimacy. *Thriller,*

*Comedy*

### **The Shallow End**

wr. Wendy MacLeod, dir. Cynthia Silver

Basking in the sunny glow of Reagan's America, a group of vulnerable, swimsuit-clad teenaged girls jockey for power at a community swimming pool during the summer of 1984. *Dramedy*

### **A Weekend Away**

wr. + dir. Sam Cieri

New York Premiere

Two strangers accidentally book the same Airbnb while trying to escape their city lives and wind up finding an unlikely connection. A completely improvised film, both story and dialogue were created the day of filming. *Dramedy*

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**Friday, Feb. 7**

**9 PM**

**Screening Block #2**

### **Anyway**

dir. Alejandra Parody, comp. Elizabeth Phillipson-Weiner

When a grotesque and powerful monster has taken up residence in a little girl's room, the whole town comes together to help her defeat it. *Music Video*

### **The Blue Marble (Pilot)**

wr. + dir. Ralph Toporoff

At the Universal Soul Assignment office a soul named Charlie struggles to unravel the red tape which has prevented him from fulfilling his destiny since the Big Bang. *Comedy, Sci/Fi, Web Series*

### **The Drop Off**

wr. Monica Furman, dir. Alisha Bhowmik

New York Premiere

Follow worn-out NYC actress Tori Feldman as she decides to try her luck deep in the drop off pile at an Equity Principal Audition. *Comedy*

### **Solar**

wr. Jean Goto + Mark Cheng, dir. Mark Cheng

A short film about a gang of guys who try to take solar power away from a couple of gals. *Action, Sci/Fi*

### **That Was Delicious**

wr. + dir. Nela Wagman

A woman whose outer life seems perfect finds herself at a bitterly lonely moment of truth. *Drama*

### **SCRIBBLES (Ep. 1)**

wr. Brandon Garegnani, dir. Lynnsey Ooten

Larz, a struggling illustrator with a project deadline, pushes himself to the edge of sanity and has a much needed creative breakthrough, literally, as his drawing comes to life. *Dark Comedy, Web Series*

### **When The Night Rolls In**

wr. Greg Carere + dir. Brad Raimondo

New York Premiere

A grieving widower struggles to celebrate the release of his debut novel along with his best friends, but finds himself drawn increasingly to a darkness just beyond the edge of what he can see. *Drama*

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**Saturday, Feb. 8**

**2 PM**

**Screening Block #3**

**Stage Left: "University Settlement" (S. 1, Ep. 4)**

cr. Ashley Marinaccio, dir. Janet Bentley

World Premiere

This episode of Stage Left explores the issue of creative space and artist development in New York City, through the lens of the University Settlement's Performance Project, the oldest settlement house in the Lower East Side. *Documentary, Web Series*

### **The Closet B.I.T.C.H (Ep. 6)**

co-wr. Shana A. Solomon + William Alexander Runnels, dir. William Alexander Runnels  
When Fred doesn't allow his daughter Shana to go to a movie, her best friend convinces her to get her "spider monkey skills" on, climb down the fire escape and sneak out to be with the crew. *Dramedy, Web Series*

### **Stuck**

wr. Nathalie Frederick, dir. Alyssa May Gold  
Two women get stuck in the bathroom at a party and are forced to reconcile their feelings for one another. Can being brave enough to speak your truth lead to a happy ending?  
*Dramedy*

### **En Route (S. 1, Ep. 2)**

wr. Dylan James Amick + Ollie Corchado, dir. Jordan Goldston  
Petey & Bobby are NYC transplants doing deliveries for a Postmates-esque app. In this episode Petey does a favor for his friend Veronica while Bobby takes a day off. *Dramedy, Web Series*

### **It's Time for Tea**

wr. + dir. Matthew J. Kaplan  
Following his daughter's death, a man regresses to the child's age in order to replace her, entering a world of his imagination and leaving his wife alone with her grief. *Dark Comedy, Fantasy*

### **The Rehearsal**

wr. + dir. Jaclyn Bethany  
Set in the New York theatre world, a woman's role in an Off-Broadway play becomes strangely interconnected with her personal life. *Dramedy, Web Series*

### **Karma**

wr. + dir. Cara Hall  
Heartbroken from a romantic betrayal, Charlie pays a visit to the woman she stole her ex-girlfriend from in search of forgiveness and commiseration. *Drama*

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**Saturday, Feb. 8**

**5 PM**

### **Happy Hour Lounge**

Hang out with friends and artists over cheap drinks and discuss the days films!

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**Saturday, Feb. 8**

**7 PM**

### **Screening Block #4**

#### **A Quick Little Pow Wow**

co-wr. + co-dir. Ephraim Birney + Ryan Quigley

World Premiere

Two struggling YouTubers attempt to revise their social media strategies, but they are on vastly different pages. *Comedy*

#### **Human Nature**

wr. Garth., dir. SRDA

Human Nature is the debut music video of recording artist, Garth. A torrid and empathic dance between masculine and feminine energies punctuate the tensions in Garth's lyrical prose. *Music Video*

#### **Believin'**

wr. Sharon Cooper, dir. Daryl Lathon

A comedy about mourning. *Comedy*

#### **My First Start**

wr. Jamie Buxton, dir. Victoria Clark

New York Premiere

Set in modern day, NYC. A hopeful singer arrives to her temp job excited at the opportunity for a steady paycheck. She quickly learns that music possesses a unique way to stimulate old memories and remind her where her dream truly lies. *Comedy*

#### **Secret Feminism**

wr. + dir. Shara Ashley Zeiger

Two feminists, Stella and Maggie, up to no good, sneak off to the woods to be "nasty women." *Comedy*

#### **The Lady From Long Island City**

wr. Donald Prescod, dir. Kristan Seemel

New York Premiere

Two women walk into a bar. One walks out. *Dark Comedy*

## **The Nude Model**

wr. + dir. Charlotte Bydwell

A peaceful morning of art-making turns into a highly inappropriate roundtable discussion of epic proportions as three male artists let their mouths run amuck in front of their unsuspecting female model. *Dramedy*

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**Saturday, Feb. 8**

**9 PM**

**Screening Block #5**

## **Courtesan**

wr. Cynthia Cook, dir. Daniel Passaro

World Premiere

Babe and Dude get tangled in a sloppy night of romantic longing and regret. A story about sexual and romantic exchange that prompts the question, What exactly did we agree on exchanging? *Dramedy*

## **Surprise!**

wr. Elizabeth Bays, dir. David Zayas, Jr.

Bitsy receives a surprise that changes her life. *Horror*

## **Ladies Lounge**

wr. Caroline V. McGraw, dir. Michelle Bossy

New York Premiere

A woman flees a bad date only to be confronted by her doppelgangers in the ladies lounge. "Ladies Lounge" is a film about the roles women are offered, and how they must sometimes take their power back by any means necessary. *Comedic Thriller*

## **The Vanished**

co-dir. Rachel Handler + Catriona Rubenis-Stevens

New York Premiere

Inception meets Groundhog Day as Alice's friends begin to disappear and she must choose between constantly reliving the same nightmare, or vanishing into the unknown. *Sci/Fi*

## **The Taxidermist**

wr. + dir. Natalie Johnson

Claire, a woman taxidermist, grieves her recent, late-term miscarriage. *Horror*

## Psycho Analysis

co-wr. Bryan James Hamilton + Ivette Dumeng, dir. Ivette Dumeng

It's halloween night. David Jones, a young sociopath, doesn't show up for his psychotherapy session. Kids are trick or treating, and David has the urge to hand out candies. *Thriller*

## Love

wr. + dir. Alex Freeman

World Premiere

30 minutes before she leaves for her wedding, Claire is visited by her longtime on again, off again boyfriend Scott, and together they confront what might have been. *Drama*

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**Sunday, Feb. 9**

**2 PM**

### F\*It Club's FILM RACE SCREENINGS

Teams of filmmakers registered 72 hours ago to make short films that had to include a list of elements. Watch these films and vote for the winner! *A benefit to support F\*It Club's programming*

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**Sunday, Feb. 9**

**4 PM**

### PANEL: *What Makes A Pitch Sizzle?*

Trailers and sizzle reels are used to pitch content and attract audiences. We'll discuss what materials you need when you're ready to pitch, and review examples of trailers submitted by artists in this year's festival. Panelists include **Thom Woodley** (Electus, College Humor), **Sarah Donnelly** (Palikari Pictures), and **Gideon Evans** (*The Daily Show*, *The President Show*)

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**Sunday, Feb. 9**

**6 PM**

**CLOSING NIGHT FEATURED GUEST: CHARLES BUSCH**

**A VERY SERIOUS PERSON (2006)**

Written by Charles Busch and Carl Andress

Directed by Charles Busch

Running time: 95 min.

**With a talkback with Mr. Busch to follow**

A coming-of-age tale about a showtunes- and old Hollywood-obsessed boy and his effete Danish mentor. The two bond and teach each other lessons about self-acceptance over the course of one magical summer on the Jersey Shore.

With P.J. Verhoest, Dana Ivey, Polly Bergen, and Charles Busch

About the director: CHARLES BUSCH is the author and star of such plays as *The Divine Sister*, *The Lady in Question*, *Red Scare on Sunset*, *The Tribute Artist* and *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*; one of the longest running plays in the history of Off-Broadway. His play *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* ran for 777 performances on Broadway, won the Outer Circle Critics' John L. Gassner Award for playwriting, received a Tony nomination for Best Play and is the longest running Broadway comedy of the past twenty-five years. He wrote and starred in the film versions of his plays, *Psycho Beach Party* and *Die Mommie Die*, the latter of which won him the Best Performance Award at the Sundance Film Festival. For two seasons, he appeared as Nat Ginzburg on the HBO series *OZ* and is the author of the auto-biographical novel *Whores of Lost Atlantis*. He has directed two films; the Showtime short subject, *Personal Assistant*, and a feature, *A Very Serious Person*, which won an honorable mention at the Tribeca Film Festival.

In 2003, Mr. Busch received a special Drama Desk Award for career achievement as both performer and playwright and was given a star on the Playwrights Walk outside the Lucille Lortel Theatre. He is also the subject of the acclaimed documentary film *The Lady in Question is Charles Busch*.

He is a two-time MAC award winner and has performed his cabaret act in many cities including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, New Orleans, Philadelphia, London, Paris, Barcelona and in New York at Feinstein's 54 Below and Jazz at Lincoln Center's American Songbook series.

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## **NYITFF CREW**

**Tech Director** Anthony Gedrich

**Projectionist** Rachel Rosheger

**Audio Technician** Jason Smith

**Special Thanks** Park Boulevard Productions, Rooftop Films, Gunhill Brewing Company

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## **ABOUT NEW OHIO THEATRE**

New Ohio Theatre is a two-time OBIE Award-winning theatre under the leadership of Robert Lyons, Artistic Director, and Marc Stuart Weitz, Producing Director. The New Ohio serves New York's most adventurous theatre audiences by developing and presenting bold work from today's vast independent theatre community. They believe the best of this community, the small artist-driven ensembles and the daring producing companies who operate without a permanent theatrical home, are actively expanding the boundaries of where American theatre is right now and where it's going. From its home in the West Village's historic Archive Building, the New Ohio provides a high-profile platform for downtown's most mature, ridiculous, engaged, irreverent, gut-wrenching, frivolous, sophisticated, foolish and profound theatrical endeavors.

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