NY Indie Theatre Film Festival

Feb 6-9, 2020
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 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

Thursday, Feb. 6
9 PM
Opening Night Party!
Open beer and wine bar for the first hour.
Beer lovingly provided by Gunhill Brewing Company

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*

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*

---

**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)
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)
w. 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
w. + d. 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
w. + d. 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
w. + d. 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
Saturday, Feb. 8  
5 PM
Happy Hour Lounge
Hang out with friends and artists over cheap drinks and discuss the days films!

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. SRĐA  
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. Donaldo 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*

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*

---

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*

---

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*)
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.
NYITFF CREW

Tech Director  Anthony Gedrich
Projectionist  Rachel Rosheger
Audio Technician  Jason Smith

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

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.