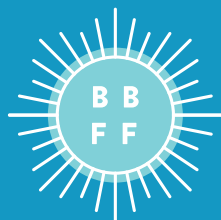


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WELCOME!

WELCOME!

We're thrilled to present the eight cinematic gems carefully selected for the 2023 2nd annual Beach Break Film Festival, presented by Recology of the Coast, here in the picturesque setting of Half Moon Bay.

This year's films showcase the exceptional storytelling prowess of top talents, each weaving narratives that resonate with our emotions and stimulate our intellect. These compelling stories serve as a source of inspiration, education, and entertainment. Covering a broad spectrum of topics, they celebrate the human spirit and underscore our roles as community members and global citizens shaping the future.

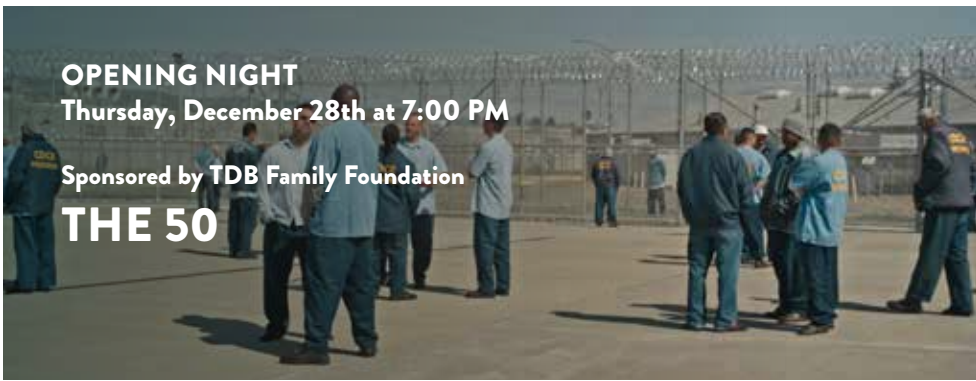
We feel honored that these film producers have chosen to share their creations with us. The essence of a film festival lies in collectively experiencing a story and engaging in discussions with the creators and topic experts. Often, the end of a film marks the beginning of meaningful conversations about what comes next. We encourage you to participate in the discussions following each film.

Our heartfelt thanks to you, the attendees, who have come together for what promises to be a memorable, joyful, and soulful experience. Special appreciation goes to The Coastal Rep for being our valued community partner and to Ginger Cutter for her tremendous contribution to the success of this event.

A deep sense of gratitude extends to our Advisory Board Members as well as the numerous volunteers whose tireless efforts and remarkable dedication have played a pivotal role in bringing this film festival to our coastal community. And lastly, to Blake Merkes and Erik Watts, who are an integral part of Beach Break Entertainment's production and branding.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the cinematic journey.

Julie Mell
Director and Founder



THE 50

Against the backdrop of prison overcrowding and widespread drug use, **THE 50** documents the unprecedented journey of 50 men who challenged society's expectations of them to become certified substance abuse counselors while incarcerated. 1hr 31 min.

Q & A following with Brenton Gieser, Cameron Clark, Al Roensch, and Randy Carter. Moderated by Will Stoller-Lee.

Pre-reception music by John Lester.

Please join us after the film and Q & A for dessert and more conversation.



Brenton Gieser, Director/Producer

Brenton Gieser is a first-generation, biracial Korean-American film director straddling space between identities, cultures, and class. Brenton aims to craft stories that explore a nuanced yet grounded humanity through larger themes of inequity, healing, and the complexities of self. *The 50* is Brenton's first feature.

Brenton is a DOC NYC 40 Under 40 honoree, a distinction celebrating the top emerging talent in the documentary industry. His films have screened at DOC NYC, Mill Valley Film Festival, Santa Barbara International Film Festival, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, CIFF, SF Indie Fest, amongst others. He was also born and raised here on the coast.



Cameron Clark, Executive Director of DOVE

Cameron joined the Compton Crips when he was 13. A skilled drug dealer before reaching high school, Cameron served time in Youth Authority, and then later in state prison. It was many years before he would exchange gang culture for the community of the Offender Mentor Certification Program (OMCP). Today Cameron is the Executive Director of DOVE,

an organization working to prevent the incarceration of young men and help transition those leaving prison back into society.



Will Stoller-Lee, TDB Family Foundation, Executive Director

Will has had an extensive career working in the nonprofit, education, film, and community partnership space. He is a co-founder of the Windrider Film Forum, a one-of-a-kind immersive educational event that brings students to the Sundance Film Festival to engage in conversation about faith and film. He was also an integral part of the leadership team that

launched the Windrider Bay Area event in 2010 and served as the Program Director for 14 years. From 1995-2019, he was the director of Fuller Theological Seminary's regional campus in Colorado Springs. Most recently Will was the Director of Community Impact for Greccio Housing, an affordable housing nonprofit in Colorado Springs, CO.

Will has also been actively involved as a volunteer in the local community including serving on numerous nonprofit boards in Colorado Springs. Currently, he serves as the co-chair for the Youth Documentary Academy, the program chair for The Greenberg Center for Learning and Tolerance, and as the board chair for the Dale House Project. Previously, he served on the board of the Center for Christian-Jewish Dialogue, was a member of the Advisory Committee for the Centura Health Clinical Pastoral Education and Chaplaincy Training, and spent many seasons as a volunteer coach for Park and Recreation Youth Baseball.



Al Roensch

Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, young Al tended to self-isolate. In his early 20s, he retaliated violently when his close friend and then girlfriend became romantic. Al spent 19 years in state prison, where, as a member of the first 50, he became both a college graduate and a certified drug and alcohol counselor. Currently, Al serves as a minister

and counselor at his local church in Napa, CA.



Randy Carter

Randy spent his early life between East Oakland and San Diego, split between his family. At the age of 19, he killed a man during an altercation. It was his first time holding a gun. Randy served 35 years in state prison for first-degree murder, ultimately becoming a drug and alcohol counselor and one of the top students of his class. Today, Randy works

as a case manager providing social services to some of the most vulnerable of the unhoused populations in San Francisco and as a public speaker.

FREE FAMILY SHOW
Friday, December 29th at 11:00 AM

PHILHARMONIA FANTASTIQUE: THE MAKING OF THE ORCHESTRA

PHILHARMONIA FANTASTIQUE

A 22-minute multi-media concerto from Mason Bates, composer of the Grammy Award-winning opera *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, in collaboration with Oscar-winning director and sound designer Gary Rydstrom, and animation director Jim Capobianco. The animated film flies through the instruments of the orchestra to explore the fundamental connections between music, sound, performance, creativity and technology. **22 min.**

FREE: A SPECIAL SCREENING FOR THE YOUNG AND THEIR FAMILIES

Including, a presentation by members of the Coastside Community Orchestra followed by a **free catered lunch.**

Brought to us in part by the San Mateo County Office of Arts and Culture and Arts Commission and the Coastside Community Orchestra.



Coastside Community Orchestra

The Coastside Community Orchestra exists to bring symphonic music to Coastside residents, to provide an opportunity for the joint music-making of local players, and to encourage the appreciation of orchestral music in children and youth.

The Coastside Community Orchestra is governed by a five-member board and is offered as a class under the auspices of the Half Moon Bay Parks and Recreation Department.

Friday, December 29th at 1:30 PM

Sponsored by The Ritz-Carlton HMB

SOUL OF THE OCEAN

SOUL OF THE OCEAN

In these waters lies a complex world... a natural realm built on relationships. It's an ancient system of give-and-take... where communities of life cooperate. The diversity of creatures here is dazzling. And everyone must play their part to maintain the delicate balance. **54 min.**

Q & A following with husband and wife team: Michele and Howard Hall.



Michele Hall, Producer and Howard Hall, Director

Michele and Howard Hall are perhaps best known for their underwater IMAX films.

Of the five highest-grossing 3D films produced by IMAX Corporation, two were directed by Howard Hall. *Into the Deep* has earned box office receipts of over \$70 million and *Deep Sea 3D* has earned over \$96 million. The Hall's recently released *Under the Sea 3D* has earned over \$52 million.

Between them they have won seven Emmy Awards. Howard has produced and/or directed many award-winning natural history television films including a *National Geographic Special*, which he co-produced with Michele, and three episodes of the PBS series *Nature*. Howard also directed and Michele produced the award-winning, five-hour series *Secrets of the Ocean Realm* for PBS.

Friday, December 29th at 4:30 PM

GRANNY'S GONE WILD

GRANNY'S GONE WILD

The World's Oldest Comedienne, Lynn Ruth Miller, is the subject of *Granny's Gone Wild*, a documentary from Latest's Bill Smith. This ribald and riotous romp follows the poster girl for growing old disgracefully – and her adoring young fans – as she shows us how to live life to the fullest whatever your age. **55 min.**

Q & A following with special guests Brett Lillegard and Chris Hunter, and moderated by Beth Lemke... all friends of Lynn Ruth Miller.

Preceded by the short film **DO YOU REMEMBER THE 2020 BLUES?** by Steve and Dylan Gallup.

Live music by Steve and Dylan Gallup.



Beth Lemke, Owner, A Grape in the Fog

Beth Lemke established A Grape in the Fog (AGITF) in 2010, a charming wine bar in Pacifica, California, where the best of coastal living is created. AGITF serves lovely boutiques of wine from around the world. She was a good friend of Lynn Ruth Miller and brought the film to our attention with great enthusiasm.



Brett Lillegard

Brett is a stand-up comedian who was active in the Bay Area from 2005 to 2017. Brett's friendship with Lynn Ruth began in 2007 at a comedy competition in Pleasanton, where they each performed and appeared in a documentary film. A favorite venue for Brett and for Lynn Ruth was Beth Lemke's "A Grape In The Fog" in Pacifica, where Lynn Ruth produced a weekly stand-up comedy show and Brett was a regular performer.



Chris Hunter

Chris Hunter lives in Pacifica with his wife Meg. He worked at the Pacifica Tribune from 1990 until 2007, winding up his tenure as the Editor and Publisher. He subsequently was the Chief of Staff for the late Don Horsley, who served 12 years on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors as the District 3 Supervisor. Chris met Lynn Ruth Miller in the 1990s, wrote stories about her, followed her career and was inspired by her.

Friday, December 29th at 7:00 PM

Sponsored by Mavericks Surf Company

BIRTH OF THE ENDLESS SUMMER: DISCOVERY OF CAPE ST. FRANCIS

BIRTH OF THE ENDLESS SUMMER

The documentary reveals the untold story behind Bruce Brown's iconic film "The Endless Summer." It follows the journey of Dick Metz, a California surf pioneer, as he travels the world from 1958 to 1961. Metz's adventures lead him to discover the "perfect wave" at Cape St. Francis in South Africa, which inspires Bruce Brown to create "The Endless Summer" and revolutionize the sport of surfing. The film also documents Metz's return to South Africa at the age of 90 to retrace his original journey. It features interviews with influential figures in the surfing world, including Metz, Bruce Brown, and other surfers. **1hr 23 min.**

Special appearances by Jeff Clark and Kelly Slater.

Preceded by the short film **THE WATER WILL RISE** by Dom Padua, a director and filmmaker born and raised here on the coast.



Jeff Clark

Jeff Clark is one of the most renowned and respected big wave surfers in the world, regarded by the surf community to be a member of a small group of pioneer watermen. Jeff is best known for successfully pioneering the massive waves of Mavericks alone for years before it was discovered by the big-wave surfing community. Mavericks, located off the coast in Half Moon Bay, is considered to be one of the most dangerous big waves on the planet.

Labeled one of the "world's best big-wave riders" by Surfer magazine in 1994 and among the 100 bravest people in the U.S. by PBS, Clark has been featured in the films *Riding Giants*, *Step Into Liquid*, *Adventures in Wild California*, *Discovering Mavericks* and many other films.



Steve Gallup

Steve Gallup is a Coastside guitarist, songwriter, and wildlife photographer as well as the SF Bay Area Curator for The Acoustic Guitar Project and a founding member of Press Record Songwriting Society. Steve often plays Bay Area venues with his duo "Play Away Rust". In 2023 he teamed up with his son, Dylan, to release an animated music video for his original

song "Do You Remember the 2020 Blues?", a humorous reminder of the details you may have forgotten from the year 2020.



Saturday, December 30th at 12:30 PM

COMMON GROUND

COMMON GROUND

With appearances by Laura Dern, Donald Glover, Rosario Dawson, and more, this dramatic and inspiring documentary focuses on how regenerative farming helps combat climate change, and how soil health is the key to all health. **1hr 45 min.**

Q & A following with special guests Joaquin Jimenez, Cata Gomez, Doniga and Larry Markegard, and Katie Filar.



Joaquin Jimenez, Vice Mayor Half Moon Bay City Council

In 2020, Joaquin Jimenez was elected as the first Mexican immigrant to serve on the Half Moon Bay City Council. He has been an advocate and organizer for the community for over 20 years. Formerly, he was the Farmworker Program Director for ALAS (Ayudando Latinos A Soñar), a Half Moon Bay-based non-profit cultural and social services organization serving the Coastside. He was also the Farmworker Outreach and Liaison at Puente de la Costa Sur and now the founder of the Rancho San Benito Farm, a 501c3 regenerative farm in Half Moon Bay.



Katie Filar, HEAL Project Farm Manager

Katie is happy to be taking care of the farm that helps educate coastside kids about where their food comes from. Growing up in Pacifica she discovered that the seeds to lifelong learning are found and watered outdoors.

Katie puts her UC Berkeley degrees in society & environment and professional forestry to work at The HEAL Project farm. She intends to go to graduate school one day for design to bring her love of arts and crafts to their full potential.



Saturday, December 30th at 3:30 PM

Sponsored by Recology of the Coast

WITH PETER BRADLEY

WITH PETER BRADLEY

This intimate documentary portrait is the product of a collaboration between filmmaker Alex Rappoport and abstract artist Peter Bradley, who both live in Saugerties, New York. When the two met in January, 2020, Peter was 79 and had neither sold many paintings nor had a major show in over four decades – yet he still painted every day in and around a shipping-container studio, heated by a wood stove, no matter what the weather. **1hr 32 min.**

Q & A following with AI artist Daniel Ambrosi.

Preceded by the short film **AI ART** by Tanay Gokhale and Zhiwei Feng.



Daniel Ambrosi

Daniel Ambrosi is recognized as one of the founding creators of the emerging AI art movement and is noted for the nuanced balance he achieves in human-AI hybrid art.

Based in Half Moon Bay, California, Ambrosi has been exploring novel methods of visual presentation for over 40 years.

In 2011, Ambrosi devised a unique form of computational photography that generates exceptionally immersive landscape images. Since 2016, Ambrosi's "Dreamscapes" build upon his previous experiments by adding a powerful new graphics tool to his artistic workflow: an enhanced version of "DeepDream," a computer vision program that evolved from Google engineers' desire to visualize the inner workings of Deep Learning artificial intelligence models.

CLOSING NIGHT

Saturday, December 30th at 6:00 PM

Sponsored by the Palermo Team, Compass Real Estate:
Kirsten Hagen, Stephanie Sills and Greta Sieglock

IT AIN'T OVER

IT AIN'T OVER

It Ain't Over gives Berra (Lawrence Peter "Yogi" Berra), one of baseball's greatest) his due in following the life of a savvy, commanding, bad-ball hitting catcher with a squat frame but also a D-Day veteran, loving husband and father and, yes, product endorser and originator (mostly) of his own brand of proverbs now ingrained into everyday life. **1hr 39 min.**

Preceded by the short film **FLY AND FALL FOR TWELVE PIANOS** by Dean Mermell featuring local artist musician Mauro ffortissimo.

Q & A following with a special pre-recorded discussion between Lindsay Berra and Jon Miller.

Live music by Mauro ffortissimo following the Q & A during the closing reception.



Lindsay Berra, Executive Producer

Lindsay Berra is a freelance sports journalist based in Montclair, NJ. At MLB.com from January 2013 through January 2018, she established herself as an authority on baseball fitness and injuries and appeared frequently on MLB Network to discuss her stories. From 1999 through 2012, she was a senior writer for ESPN Magazine, covering primarily ice hockey, tennis, baseball and the Olympics. Lindsay received her undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she played varsity softball and men's club ice hockey. She is the oldest grandchild of Yogi and Carmen Berra and is a board member at the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center in Little Falls, NJ.



Jon Miller, Radio and Television Broadcaster for the San Francisco Giants

Jon Miller, honored by the National Baseball Hall of Fame as the 2010 Ford C. Frick award winner for baseball broadcasting excellence, the "Voice of the Giants", has spent 27 seasons in the broadcast booth on KNBR Radio, NBC Bay Area and NBC Sports Bay Area. Miller was thrilled to broadcast his 16th World Series in 2014 as the Giants won it all for the third time in five years. He was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2014 and is a four-time local Emmy Award winner.

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BECOME A DONOR

We would be honored to have your financial support for the 2023 Beach Break Film Festival. As a donor your name will appear in the 2024 program and on the big screen. Additionally, you will receive a passcode to reserve your complimentary tickets and a keepsake lanyard at the box office when you arrive for your first film.

Please consider making an online donation at:

www.bbffhmb.org/become-a-donor

Beach Break Film Festival is fiscally sponsored by the Coastal Repertory Theatre, a pre-approved 501c-3 non-profit and a portion of your tax-deductible donation supports the Coastal Repertory Theatre programming, including youth programs and more.

THANK YOU

VOLUNTEERS

Our fabulous volunteers without whom this couldn't be possible.

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Recology: A World Without Waste

The Recology mission represents a fundamental shift from traditional waste management to resource recovery. We seek to eliminate waste by developing and discovering sustainable resource recovery practices that can be implemented globally.



TDB Family Foundation

The TDB Family Foundation exists to celebrate stories of kindness, support the resiliency of individuals, and promote solutions that contribute to thriving communities.

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FIND YOUR WAVE[®]



Mavericks Surf Company is built upon the pursuit of surf and stoke, a passion for the ocean, and a constant drive to challenge our limits.

Mavericks Surf Company is our iconic surf shop in Pillar Point Harbor featuring original Mavericks gear, clothing, surf supplies and accessories, ocean-inspired gifts, and custom Jeff Clark Surfboards.

Mavericks PaddleSports is steps from the water's edge and is dedicated to stand-up paddleboard rentals, sales, lessons, and events. The shop is the epicenter for hydrofoiling on the coastside, with expert staff and quality gear to plan your next water adventure. We're located at the Half Moon Bay Yacht Club, on the calm waters of Pillar Point Harbor, the gateway to the Pacific.

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BBFF23 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

- 5:30 PM Opening Reception
6:30 PM Doors open to the public
6:45 PM Theater Seating

7:00 PM **THE 50**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

11:00 AM **PHILHARMONIA FANTASTIQUE**

1:30 PM **SOUL OF THE OCEAN**

4:30 PM **GRANNY'S GONE WILD**

Preceded by Short: **DO YOU REMEMBER THE 2020 BLUES?**

7:00 PM **BIRTH OF THE ENDLESS SUMMER**

Preceded by Short: **THE WATER WILL RISE**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 30TH

12:30 PM **COMMON GROUND**

3:30 PM **WITH PETER BRADLEY**

Preceded by Short: **AI ART**

6:00 PM **IT AIN'T OVER**

Preceded by Short: **FLY AND FALL FOR TWELVE PIANOS**

8:30 PM Closing Reception

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