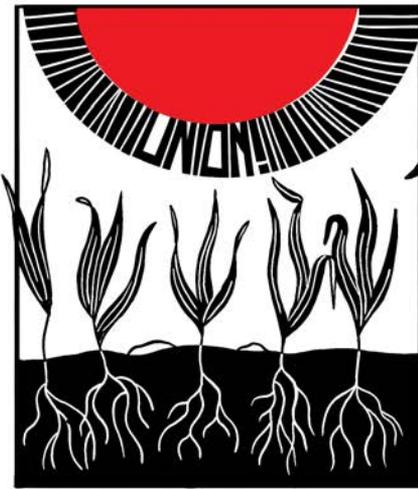


# The Film Festival for the 99%



**WORKERS UNITE! FILM FESTIVAL 12**  
OCTOBER 27TH - NOVEMBER 10TH, 2023 • [WORKERSUNITEFILMFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WORKERSUNITEFILMFESTIVAL.ORG)

LIVE & VIRTUAL // NEW YORK CITY

**Oct 27-Nov 2, 2023 • Cinema Village**



CWA LOCAL 1180

# Congratulations

to

## Workers Unite

on your 12th Season of

featuring worker and labor stories as a means of demonstrating that hope for a better world is still alive. Your work helps spotlight what progressive movements are doing to organize workers as they come to understand the value added by unions.

**New York Administrative Employees Local 1180  
Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO**

6 Harrison Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10013 • 212.226.6565

[www.cwa1180.org](http://www.cwa1180.org)

#### OFFICERS

**Gloria Middleton**, President  
**Gerald Brown**, 1st Vice President  
**Teesha Foreman**, 2nd Vice President  
**Robin Blair-Batte**, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Lourdes Acevedo**, Recording Secretary

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Amica Benjamin**  
**Ranston Foster**  
**Denise Gilliam**  
**Helen S. Jarrett**  
**Debra Paylor**  
**Rosario Roman**  
**Gregory Smith**  
**Venus Williams**  
**Hazel O. Worley**



CWA LOCAL 1180



@CWA1180



@CWA1180



CWA LOCAL 1180

# The confidence of whole health.



Empire is here to materially and measurably improve the whole health and well-being of all New Yorkers.

**We are proud to support the 12<sup>th</sup> season of the Workers Unite Film Festival.**



[empireblue.com](https://www.empireblue.com)

An Anthem Company your Whole Health Partner



## **NYSNA CELEBRATES** *in Solidarity with the* **WORKERS UNITE** **FILM FESTIVAL**

The New York State Nurses Association is more than 42,000 frontline nurses and healthcare professionals united for our patients, our practice, safe staffing, health equity, and healthcare for all. We are New York's largest union and professional association for registered nurses and an affiliate of National Nurses United, AFL-CIO, the country's largest and fastest-growing union and professional association of registered nurses, with more than 225,000 members nationwide.

New York State  
**NURSES**  
ASSOCIATION

an affiliate of



National  
Nurses  
United

AFL-CIO

# The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union

UFCW

## Celebrates the works presented at the Workers Unite Film Festival

Through workers' voices these films highlight the struggles, successes and daily lives of all workers in their efforts to unite and organize for better living conditions and social justice. We stand in solidarity with filmmakers shining the light on some of the most critical worker stories of our time.



**STUART APPELBAUM**  
President



**BOB LAYNG**  
Secretary-Treasurer

The Workers Unite! Film Festival is a Celebration of Global Labor Solidarity.



**THE WORKERS UNITE FILM FESTIVAL** aims to feature student and professional films from the United States and around the world. These films highlight and publicize the struggles, successes and daily lives of all workers in their efforts to unite and organize for better living conditions and social justice. We hope to illuminate, educate and motivate audiences to take action.

We are at one of the most critical points in our democracy's history. With multiple felony indictments lodged against him, the former President, spouting lies and distortions faster than reporters can keep up, fully intends to run for President again and to pardon himself the moment he is sworn in. We cannot let this happen in any way, shape or form. This has nothing to do with left or right, Democrat or Republican, but does have everything to do with this "wannabe fascist" trying to seize control of this fragile democracy and use it once again for his own financial and bizarre emotional desires. Lynn Cheney, as staunch a member of the GOP as there ever was, has even suggested that classified secrets, sold by this enemy of democracy, have been instrumental in both the Ukraine War and how the Middle East War has just exploded. As organizers and activists, we must work doubly hard to ensure that 45 never happens again.

Our 2023 Hot Labor Summer, which has evolved into a dramatic and positive Labor Year, will be one of the first targets for a second administration by number 45. While he professes to love working people, he hates their unions and loves them only when they are sending him checks for his

legal bills. Do not be fooled. We must win in 2024 and continue our efforts to bring all Americans who work into a life with dignity, purpose, healthcare and a safe and secure retirement. This means freedom to organize workers into unions without roadblocks.

We have been overjoyed in 2023 at the number of workers organizing, striking and winning major victories against their greedy corporate owners. We partner with SAG-AFTRA, still on strike, the WGA, the AFM and Local 802 AFM/NYC and we were excited to see victories by the WGA, UPS, the SEIU Nurses of Kaiser Permanente and many more. This is just the beginning of this upsurge. Every single working person in this great nation deserves to be unionized and only with a labor friendly administration in power will that be able to take place. But we must start now and take the threats against our democracy seriously.

The goal for our 12th Season of the Workers Unite Film Festival is to bring the stories of brave workers from around the globe to an engaged, passionate, and diverse audience in New York City. We have dozens of films that will make you stand up and cheer. The worker's voice must be brought back into popular culture in order to be heard. Now more than ever, Labor Rights are Civil Rights, and in the chorus for change, EVERY VOICE MATTERS.

— Andrew Tilson, Executive Director



# AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation  
of Labor and  
Congress of Industrial  
Organizations**

815 Black Lives Matter  
Plaza NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-637-5000  
aflcio.org

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**ELIZABETH H. SHULER**  
PRESIDENT

**FREDRICK D. REDMOND**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Cecil Roberts  
Matthew Loeb  
Randi Weingarten  
Baldemar Velasquez  
Lee A. Saunders  
James Callahan  
DeMaurice Smith  
Sean McGarvey  
D. Taylor  
Stuart Appelbaum  
Mark Dimondstein  
Sara Nelson  
Marc Perrone  
Eric Dean  
Richard Laniagan  
Robert Martinez Jr.  
Gabrielle Carteris  
Mark McManus  
Eliisa McBride  
John Samuelson  
Vonda McDaniel  
Gwen Mills  
Charles Wovkanech  
Bonnie Castillo  
Ernest A. Logan  
James Slevin  
Tom Conway  
John Costa  
Tim Driscoll  
Everett Kelley  
Anthony Shelton  
Edward A. Kelly  
Evelyn DeJesus  
Cheryl Eliano  
Matthew S. Biggs  
Roxanne Brown  
Arthur Maratea  
James A. Williams Jr.  
Ben Valdepeña  
Meghann Burke  
Bernie Burnham  
Gina Cooper  
Frank Christensen  
Roland Rexha  
Rich Santa  
Jason Ambrosi  
Kenneth Cooper  
Brian Renfro  
Shawn Fain  
Brent Booker  
Michael Coleman  
Claude Cummings Jr.  
David Heindel  
Margaret Mock

September 6, 2023

To the Attendees of the Workers Unite Film Festival:

Film is a powerful medium. It can educate and expand our horizons. It can illuminate what has been hidden in plain sight and shift our perspective. It has the power to inspire us to take action.

This year's festival comes at a time when workers across the country are organizing in record numbers and taking collective action for a better workplace and a better life, and it is more important than ever to share the stories of working people.

This film festival is doing exactly that. By sharing the hopes and dreams and struggles of working people, you are shining a light on our culture and history. You are lifting up the achievements of working people. And you are underscoring how the labor movement is the most effective way to fight for racial, social and economic justice.

Thank you for attending this festival and I applaud each of you for supporting these important works.

In solidarity,

Elizabeth H. Shuler  
President



Mario Cilento  
President

Terrence L. Melvin  
Secretary-Treasurer

---

Dear Friend,

The New York State AFL-CIO is proud to support the Workers Unite Film Festival as it celebrates its 12<sup>th</sup> season highlighting the tremendous value of unions.

Using the arts to focus on the current surge in union activity is an innovative way to help educate workers on the benefits of belonging to the union movement.

The festival presents a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the vital role unions play in our society while creating a dialogue about the power of workers speaking up together to improve their lives. We are honored to be part of such an important event.

On behalf of the 2.5 million members of the New York State AFL-CIO, I wish the Workers Unite Film Festival and all its participants another rewarding event and continued success in the years to come.

In solidarity,

Mario Cilento  
President

MC:lc  
Opeiu-153

100 South Swan St.  
Albany, NY 12210  
(518) 436-8516

  
[www.nysaficio.org](http://www.nysaficio.org)

50 Broadway, 35<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
New York, NY 10010  
(212) 777-6040



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**ADRIENNE E. ADAMS**  
SPEAKER

October 27-November 10, 2023

Dear Friends:

As the Speaker of the New York City Council, I am delighted to extend my personal greetings to everyone attending the 2023 Workers Unite Film Festival (WUFF) in this celebration of Global Labor Solidarity!

For 12 seasons, WUFF has provided a vivid portrait of the challenges, accomplishments, and everyday lives of workers and their need for more humane living conditions and social justice. I commend these individuals for their passion and dedication.

I also applaud all of the emerging and established filmmakers—as well as all of the activists and academics—whose engaging and urgent work will undoubtedly move audiences to support the meaningful changes needed to ensure a brighter future for workers everywhere.

Thanks, as well, to the festival's team whose dedication and talent have made this important event a reality.

Here's wishing WUFF continued success in the years ahead and a wonderful time for all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adrienne Adams' in a cursive script.

ADRIENNE E. ADAMS  
SPEAKER



**NEW YORK CITY  
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO**

President  
**VINCENT ALVAREZ**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
**JANELLA T. HINDS**

August 3, 2023

Andrew Tilson, Executive Director  
Workers Unite Film Festival, Inc.  
322 West 52nd St - Box 1525  
New York, NY 10019

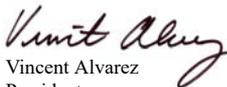
Dear Executive Director Tilson:

The New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO supports the efforts of the Workers Unite Film Festival. The struggles and successes of workers in their efforts to unite and organize for social justice and better living conditions are often unknown. We commend the Festival's important work to showcase films that highlight these struggles and successes.

Now more than ever the Labor Movement needs allies such as the Workers Unite Film Festival that tell the stories of working men and women. Once heard, these stories compel us all to help empower working women and men to overcome the challenges that they and their families face.

The New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO congratulates the Workers Unite Film Festival on its Twelfth Anniversary Season Celebration of Global Labor Solidarity and wishes you continued success.

In solidarity,

  
Vincent Alvarez  
President

VA:di  
Opeiu:153





OFFICE OF THE

# MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007  
(212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f  
431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027  
(212) 531-1609 p (212) 531-4615 f  
[www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov)  
**Mark Levine, Borough President**



October 27, 2023

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to join you in celebrating the 12th anniversary of the Workers Unite Film Festival and global labor solidarity.

Giving a voice to workers from all walks of life is vital, and film is a powerful medium for showing the struggles and triumphs that workers experience around the world. With dozens of screenings each year, you are bringing important stories from the labor movement into the spotlight. You are also inspiring the next generation of socially conscious filmmakers. As workers increasingly form unions, strike, and fight for their rights, work like yours is critical to cultivating a pro-labor culture in New York and beyond.

On behalf of the Borough of Manhattan, I thank you for your solidarity with workers and labor unions. I wish you another year of success.

Sincerely,

Mark Levine  
Manhattan Borough President



**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE  
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS**

**October 27, 2023**

To the Workers Unite Film Festival,

I would like to recognize the Workers Unite Film Festival as they host this year's festival, which brings us together, around important, engaging, groundbreaking films and global labor solidarity. For 12 seasons, the WUFF has been a space where artists are able to showcase their work. The films highlight the struggles and successes of workers in their efforts to unite and create better living conditions, and promote social justice and change, with this year focusing on union organizing.

It's a joy to celebrate with the WUFF. My first love was acting, and I originally spent years studying to become a filmmaker. The art of film, the ability it has to evoke emotion, inspire movements, and drive progress, is something which I deeply appreciate, and I have admiration and respect for its creators. WUFF also brings together activists to celebrate both social justice and the arts. Through numerous documentary screenings, the festival provides working people with a platform to tell their stories, while leading a movement for meaningful change.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this festival, on your triumphs and the recognition that comes as a result. After 12 seasons, the Workers Unite Film Festival continues to grow, and I hope to see the broad impact of your continued work for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jumaane D. Williams".

Jumaane D. Williams  
Public Advocate



S

SEGAL LAW FIRM, P.C.

(646) 810-3337

SEGAL-LAWFIRM.COM

## WORKPLACE INJURY ATTORNEYS

Fighting for injured workers and their families.

S

SEGAL LAW FIRM, P.C.

**WE ARE THE  
450,000 CAREGIVERS  
OF 1199SEIU UNITED  
HEALTHCARE WORKERS EAST**

We are proud to support the  
**Workers Unite! Film Festival.**

Thank you for promoting the real stories  
of working people and their global  
strategies to fight for survival.

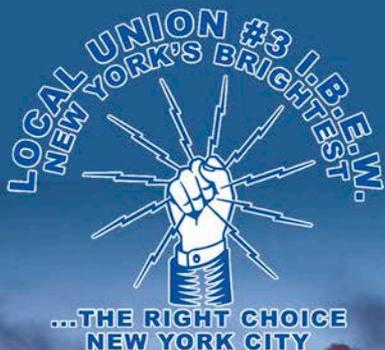
Together, we will continue  
to advocate for labor  
solidarity.

**1199SEIU**

United Healthcare Workers East

*QUALITY CARE AND  
GOOD JOBS FOR ALL*





The officers, business representatives and members  
of Local 3 IBEW are proud to support the  
Workers Unite Film Festival 12

Christopher Erikson  
Business Manager

Thomas J. Cleary  
President

Louis Alvarez  
Vice President

Damon Armstrong  
Treasurer

Joseph Proscia  
Financial Secretary

Michael Loreto  
Recording Secretary

Executive Board

Tanya Ferguson Robert Foxx Dave Hochman Patrick Moquin Steven Moy

Examining Board

Kevin Collins Sascha Swanson George White



**STRENGTHENING  
NEW YORK'S WORKFORCE**

Congratulations to  
**Workers Unite Film Festival**  
on 12 years of sharing stories  
that recognize and celebrate  
working people!

---

**Amy Desjardins, Executive Director**

*WDI is a statewide non-profit that works to increase opportunities for all New Yorkers to succeed in the workforce while earning family-sustaining wages.*

**[wdiny.org](http://wdiny.org)**



**WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE**

## 2023 Festival Schedule *At A Glance*

Location: Cinema Village (22 East 12th St, Manhattan), Prog 1-20.  
 Descriptions on Films & Directors List.

Date	Start Time	FILM NAME	Runtime	Program	Q&A or Speakers
10/27/23	6:45 PM	<b>More Perfect Union Shorts: Frontline Films from UAW, SAG- AFTRA, and WGA Strikes</b>	52m	1	Y
	8:30 PM	<b>Say Their Names</b>	10m	2	Y
10/28/23	5:00 PM	<b>Stonebreakers</b>	1 hr 10m	2	Y
		<b>Meeting Human Needs</b>	19m	3	
		<b>Honorable But Broken: EMS In Crisis</b>	59m	3	Y
	7:00 PM	<b>Forged In Steel</b>	7m	4	Y
		<b>The Revolt of the Good Guys</b>	1 hr 25m	4	Y
	8:50 PM	<b>20 Dollar Gift Card</b>	8m	5	Y
10/29/23	5:00 PM	<b>Storming Caesars Palace</b>	1 hr 25m	5	Y
		<b>The Strength of the Future</b>	3m	6	
		<b>Talking Union, Talking Climate</b>	15m	6	
		<b>The Devil's Avocado</b>	19m	6	
		<b>The Kill Floor</b>	27m	6	
	6:30 PM	<b>Silvio Rodriguez: My First Calling</b>	25m	7	Y
		<b>Revolutionary Hearts</b>	57m	7	Y
	8:40 PM	<b>The Silent People</b>	18m	8	
		<b>Rabble Rousers: Frances Goldin and The Fight for Cooper Square</b>	1 hr 23m	8	Y
	10/30/23	5:00 PM	<b>1199 SEIU: Unions 101</b>	4m	9
10/31/23	6:30 PM	<b>The Farmer-Labor Movement: A Minnesota Story</b>	57m	9	Y
		<b>The Exchange Girl</b>	9m	10	
		<b>NYSNA Strike Victory 2023</b>	2m	10	
		<b>There Goes the Neighborhood</b>	1 hr 13m	10	Y
	8:30 PM	<b>City of Steel</b>	1 hr 32m	11	
10/31/23	5:00 PM	<b>Fireburn: The Documentary</b>	21m	12	
10/31/23	6:30 PM	<b>Fight Like Hell: The Testimony of Mother Jones</b>	55m	12	Y
		<b>Meeting Human Needs</b>	19m	13	
		<b>Smile As You Kill</b>	1 hr 26m	13	

*Red = Feature-length*

10/31/23 Continued	8:30 PM	<b>The Kill Floor</b>	27m	14	
		<b>Say Their Names</b>	10m	14	
		<b>The Silent People</b>	18m	14	
		<b>The Devil's Avocado</b>	19m	14	
11/1/23	5:00 PM	<b>The Last Cobbler</b>	15m	15	Y
		<b>Moments with Mujica</b>	47m	15	Y
	6:30 PM	<b>Fault Lines from the Front Lines</b>	26m	16	
		<b>A Thousand Pines</b>	1hr 17m	16	
	8:30 PM	<b>Where Have All the Smiles Gone?</b>	29m	17	Y
		<b>Made in Italy (By the Chinese)</b>	30m	17	Y
		<b>Men In Blue</b>	35m	17	Y
11/2/23	5:00 PM	<b>Dark Denim</b>	35m	18	
		<b>Film Noir Cinema</b>	13m	18	
		<b>Fighting Back</b>	12m	18	Y
	7:00 PM	<b>Something I Can Teach</b>	4m	19	Y
		<b>20 Dollar Gift Card</b>	8m	19	
		<b>The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales</b>	1 hr 27m	19	Y
	8:50 PM	<b>Honorable But Broken: EMS In Crisis</b>	59m	20	



*Walk-Ins Welcome!*

**Tickets available at the door and online  
via Eventbrite: [bit.ly/TixWUFF12](https://bit.ly/TixWUFF12)**



Tickets range from Free to "5 at 5" \$5  
weekday shows to the normal price of \$10.

One Day Pass: \$20 • Full Festival Pass: \$65-\$85

**Watch Trailers (Set 1): <https://vimeo.com/862938448>**

# Workers Unite! Film Festival 2023

## **1199 SEIU: Unions 101 (4m)**

**Produced by: SEIU Communications Department**  
**Documentary Short (2023)**  
**Program 9**

An animated short about why joining a union is beneficial.



## **20 Dollar Gift Card (8m)**

**Directed by: Thalia Drori Ramirez**  
**Documentary Short (2023)**  
**Program 5 and 19**

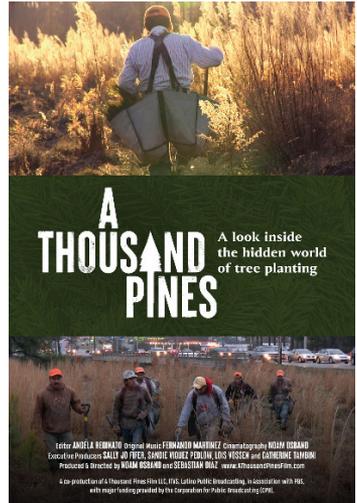
When a Nicaraguan maintenance technician gets a 20 dollar gift card as a Christmas bonus for his year of working in horrible conditions, he is compelled to tell

the world what he does for a living. His story reveals the inequities in the treatment of workers in the United States and asks the question, 'What is the value of human labor, especially when that labor is performed by Latinos?'

## **A Thousand Pines (77m)**

**Directed by: Sebastian Diaz and Noam Osband**  
**Documentary Feature (2023)**  
**Program 16**

In this tale of labor and family that shines a light on the precarity of temporary work visas, Raymundo Morales leads a crew of workers who have to make the challenging decision to leave their families in rural Mexico to



plant commercial pine forests in the United States. The crew struggles to balance the job's physical demands and its extreme isolation while remaining connected to their families back home. As the season progresses, they become a small family, cooking and caring for each other in order to endure the punishing work. Spending only three months at home during the off-season, Raymundo's job is both the family's salvation and its heartbreak.

### **Americonned (96m)**

**Directed by: Sean Claffey**  
**Documentary Feature (2022)**  
**Program 21 - The People's**  
**Forum Nov 3rd, 6:30pm**

The super rich determine virtually every aspect of the lives of the other 90% of Americans. This film examines the hidden struggles of American families, the calculated political maneuvers of the elite and the long overdue uprising of American workers. With affection for the middle-class and the outrageous attempt to color them as lazy, the film explores the question: How do we make sure workers are paid what they are worth, instead of believing they are only worth what they are paid?



### **BERLIN (40m)**

**Directed by: Muhammad Fawad**  
**Documentary Short (2023) Pakistan**  
**Online Only - Eventive 11/3-11/10**

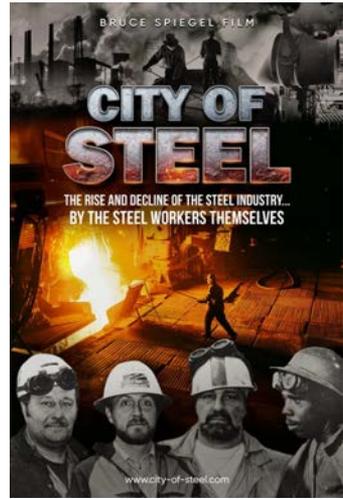
This doc short explores the harrowing journey of Asif, who was trafficked through Iran and Turkey in an illegal attempt to reach Europe and Berlin. We also learn more about attempts to reach Europe by disaffected Pakistani youth and the Afghani LGBTQ+ community who are fleeing the Taliban.



## **City of Steel (92m)**

**Directed by: Bruce Spiegel**  
**Documentary Feature (2022)**  
**Program 11**

*City of Steel* chronicles the rise and fall of the American steel industry in the greater Pittsburgh area. For over 100 years, communities around Pittsburgh were linked to the steel mills. It was a way of life that was passed on from generation to generation. Starting in the 1980's, the forces of globalization substantially wiped out this entire industry, throwing families and communities into a sudden decline. Bruce Spiegel returns to his hometown to tell this important story that is lost on most Americans. It is a personal story of the human spirit and the bond that people had with the steel mills. It is a way of life that will never return and it is a story that must be told before we lose an entire generation of people who once lived it.



## **Dark Denim (35m)**

**Directed by: Sulite Bao**  
**Documentary Short**  
**(2023)**  
**Program 18**

Aldo El Creator, a Mexican immigrant and clothing designer in Los Angeles, faces numerous challenges, including racism and gatekeeping in the industry. Despite these obstacles, he works to get his next collection together and to uplift his family's financial situation.

## Fault Lines from the Front Line (26m)

Directed by: Rob Viscardis

Documentary Short (2023) Canada

Program 16

Why do we work the way we do, and for what? The pandemic unearthed and exacerbated the endemic fault lines in our system. No paid sick days. Migrant worker deaths. Profit over the elderly in nursing homes. An unequal burden of disease on Black communities. A lack of power for workers to speak out. In this short doc, the audience is exposed to point of view stories from workers on the front lines in the hardest hit sectors.



## Fight Like Hell: The Testimony of Mother Jones (55m)

Directed by: Ian Cheney

Documentary Feature (2023)

Program 12

We were never supposed to know her name. She was a poor Irish immigrant who survived famine and war, fire and plague. Unable to save her husband or their four small children, she dedicated her life to saving working families everywhere. The robber barons called her “the most dangerous woman in America,” but workers called her “Mother Jones”. She educated, agitated, and organized the dispossessed and showed America what it could be. Adapted from a one-woman play, *Fight Like Hell* was written and performed by Kaiulani Lee and drawn from the autobiography, letters, speeches, & interviews of Mother Jones.



## **Fighting Back (12m)**

**Directed by: Echo Xiaoying Su**

**Documentary Short (2023)**

**Program 18**

Jessica Ng, a first-generation Hong Kong Chinese American, is an internationally recognized Muay Thai fighter and instructor.

Her self-defense classes empower AAPI women at a time of an alarming rise of Anti-Asian hate crimes in New York City. She navigates her identity and newfound motherhood with her husband in New York City. The film explores themes of love, energy, growth, and personal identity.



## **Film Noir Cinema (13m)**

**Directed by: Kell Qinkai Yang**

**Documentary Short (2023)**

**Program 18**

Malitek, a true cinephile, has owned Film Noir Cinema in Williamsburg, Brooklyn for more than 20 years. He is an eccentric scholar, a persistent dreamer, and a true film artist.

## **Fireburn: The Documentary (21m)**

**Directed by: Joel Fendelman**

**Documentary Short (2021)**

**Virgin Islands**

**Program 12**



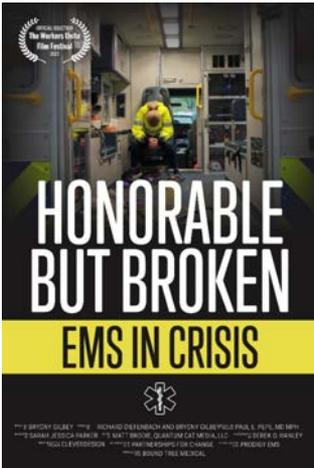
A powerful short film about the human rights violations that occurred on the island of St. Croix during the post-emancipation event known as the Fireburn. Find out what sparked this fiery labor revolt and learn how it changed the lives of Virgin Islanders. On July 3, 1848 all

enslaved in the Danish West Indies were emancipated and proclaimed free by the governor of the islands. However, 30 years later, the freed workers were still suffering under the oppressive rules of the landowners and government. Four female laborers rose up as leaders ("Queens") and what ensued was a bloody labor revolt. This revolution became known as the Fireburn, as almost half of the islands' plantations and sugar cane fields were burned in the process.

**Forged In Steel (7m)**  
**Directed by: Matthew Ryan Heffner**  
**Documentary Short (2023)**  
**Program 4**



This short details the history and importance that Bethlehem Steel had in making America what it is today, straight from the mouths of men who worked there for decades. From building the country to saving it, Forged in Steel shares the story of what hard work can do for the community and beyond.



**Honorable But Broken: EMS In Crisis (59m)**  
**Directed by: Bryony Jane Gilbey**  
**Documentary Feature (2022)**  
**Program 3 and 20**

A documentary about the realities of working in EMS and the systemic shortcomings that are causing critical workforce shortages, especially in rural parts of the country. EMS are the first responders to care for patients but they are not funded appropriately and so retaining these

valuable health workers is unsustainable. We need to designate EMS as an essential service in every state in America.

## **Made In Italy (By the Chinese)** **(30m)**

**Directed by: DJ Clark and Mingjie Wang**

**Documentary Short (2023) Italy/China**  
**Program 17**

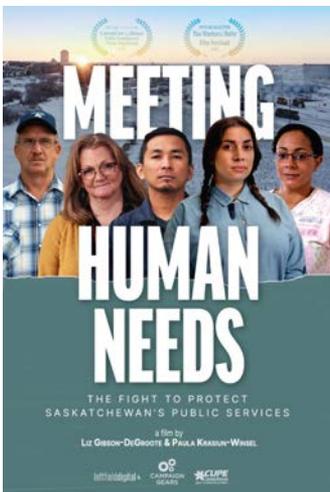
The 'Made in Italy' fashion label guarantees that the product is not only designed but produced in Italy. This investigative documentary uncovers a fascinating story of how migrants from a few villages in rural China became instrumental to the Italian fashion industry.



## **Meeting Human Needs (19m)**

**Directed by: Liz Gibson-DeGroot and Paula Krasium-Winsel**

**Documentary Short (2022) Canada**  
**Program 3 and 13**



Every day, people in Saskatchewan rely on public healthcare, libraries, schools, and Crown corporations to access the services they need to survive. Meeting Human Needs examines schemes used by conservative governments to privatize public services and the consequences suffered by communities.

## **Men In Blue (35m)**

**Directed by: Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda**

**Narrative Short (2022)**

**Program 17**

Inspired by actual events, *Men In Blue* explores the effects of human trafficking and labor exploitation in the United States. Resistance brews among the Indian immigrants who were stripped of their dignity when a reputed shipyard in Texas conscripted them as guest workers to repair the oil rigs and ships damaged after Hurricane Katrina.



## **Moments with Mujica (47m)**

**Directed by: Ken McMullen**

**Documentary Short**

**(2023) Uruguay**

**Program 15**

A documentary interview with the former president of Uruguay, Jose 'Pepe' Mujica, in which he discusses art, literature, philosophy, and the global challenges that face humanity.





## More Perfect Union: Shorts Series (52m)

Produced by More Perfect Union

Documentary Short/Films from the Frontlines (2023)

### Program 1

Includes 7 Frontline films from the recent SAG-AFTRA, WGA, and UAW strikes:

1. *Exclusive Interview: Shawn Fain's Vision for UAW*

2. *What GM Doesn't Want You to Know*

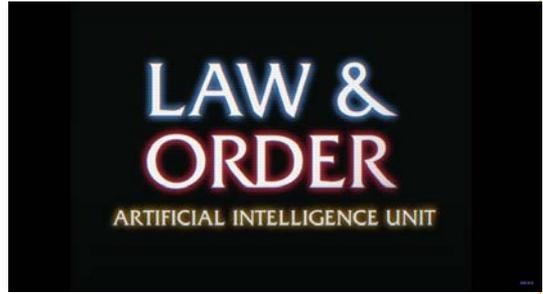


3. *"No Deal, No Wheels": Autoworkers Break Down Why They're on Strike*

4. *"The Whole American Workforce Needs to Hear This Right Now"*

5. *What Jeep Doesn't Want You to Know*

6. *Why Actors Are Striking For The First Time In 40 Years*



7. *How AI could KILL your favorite TV show*



Hosted by More Perfect Union journalists Sean Morrow and Katie Nixdorf who will be in attendance.

## **NYSNA Strike Victory 2023 (2m)**

**Directed by: Angad Singh Bhalla, Time of Day Media  
Films from the Frontlines (2023)  
Program 10**



7,000 nurses, 2 hospitals, and 3 epic days on the picket line. Watch the story of why NYC nurses went on strike this January and how they won.

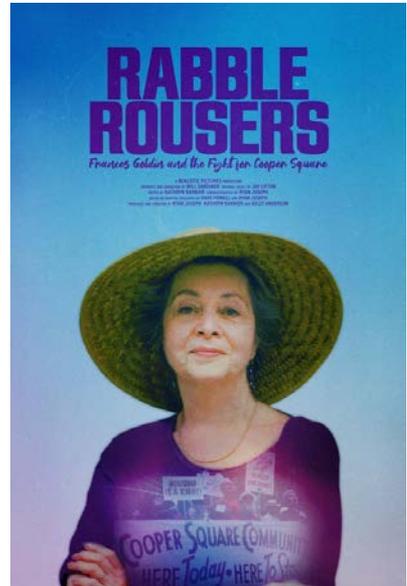
## **Rabble Rousers: Frances Goldin and the Fight for Cooper Square (83m)**

**Directed by: Ryan Joseph, Kathryn Barnier, and Kelly Anderson**

**Documentary Feature (2022)**

**Program 8 and 26**

A trailblazing housing organizer and her diverse working class neighbors fight Robert Moses, the real estate industry and five mayors to create the first Community Land Trust in New York City - an oasis of permanent low-income housing in the heart of the rapidly gentrifying Lower East Side. Guided by the belief that urban renewal should benefit - not displace - residents, they formed the Cooper Square Committee (CSC) and launched a campaign to save the neighborhood.



## **Revolutionary Hearts (57m)**

**Directed by: Mary E Lutz, Peter Kinoy**

**Documentary Feature (2022)**

**Program 7**

Revolutionary Hearts is centered around the life of David Greene who was born and raised in East New York, Brooklyn, but organized co-workers in the coal mines and auto plants of West Virginia, in adult education schools in NYC and in the rust belt of Central Ohio. David, along with his wife Janet, set up formal and informal working-class schools wherever they lived and worked. When David's occupationally-related cancer treatments threatened further community work, David turned to art.

Painting his life story in over 60 pictures in less than 3 years, he and Janet reveal their astonishing 50-year career and the diverse lives they touched. David and Janet use the paintings to



do what they have always done - teaching and learning with those around them to build a collective knowledge for

liberation. Revolutionary Hearts may not have all the answers, but it warmly invites the viewer into the conversation.

### Say Their Names (10m)

Directed by: David Reibman

Documentary Short (2022)

Program 2 and 14

The stories of 16 people killed by the police is told along with poetic context, using images from 27 Black Lives Matter Protests.

### Silvio Rodriguez: My First Calling (25m)

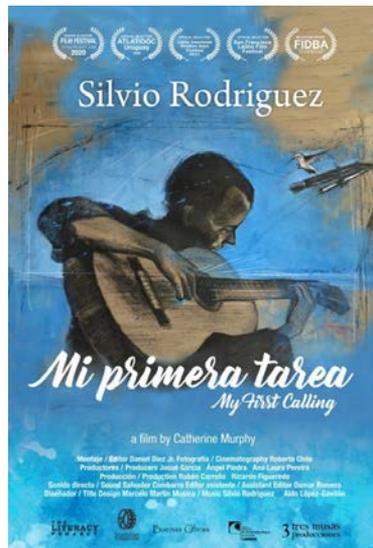
Directed by: Catherine Murphy

Documentary Short (2020)

Cuba

Program 7

The unknown story of trovador Silvio Rodriguez, talking in first person about his experience as a 14 year old teaching a rural family how to read and write during the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign.





## **Smile As You Kill (86m)**

**Directed by: Michael Sarrow**

**Narrative Feature (2023)**

**Program 13**

With only a few months to live, a desperate man kidnaps a successful advertising director and makes one demand: Create an online campaign to pay for treatment ... or share his fate.

## **Something I Can Teach (4m)**

**Directed by: Natasha C. Smith**

**Narrative Short (2023)**

**Program 19**

Based on true events, *Something I Can Teach* is set amidst a single day in the life of Merline, a hard-working professional striving to excel in her role as a production accountant. Her world is disrupted when she encounters Sara, a newly appointed accountant who joins the team with questionable motives. As the day unfolds, Sara's true intentions, colored by internalized racial bias, are unveiled through a derogatory comment, compelling Merline to confront the challenging environment and unmask the true nature of those around her, while discovering her own resilience and inner strength.





Ruby creates a welfare rights group to fight for an adequate income, dignity, and justice. They, along with low-income mothers across the country, form the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO) with the support of George Wiley, a chemistry professor-turned-activist and Frances Fox Piven, a radical social-scientist. Together, the mothers of the NWRO introduce a Universal Basic Income campaign with feminist Gloria Steinem at their side in Miami 1972. *Storming Caesars Palace* shares the uplifting story of how a group of ordinary low-income mothers launched a revolutionary Black feminist anti-poverty movement in the 1960s & 1970s.

## Talking Union, Talking Climate (15m)

**Directed by: Vivian Price**  
**Documentary Short**  
**(2023) U.S./Nigeria/  
Norway**  
**Program 6, 26**

What happens when a refinery worker from California, a rig mechanic from Norway, and a fluids engineer from Nigeria meet? *Talking Union, Talking Climate* is a funny and serious dialogue between workers in the global north and south who share experiences about their jobs, their labor conditions, thoughts on the impact of climate change on their industry, and concerns for a just transition.



# The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales (87m)

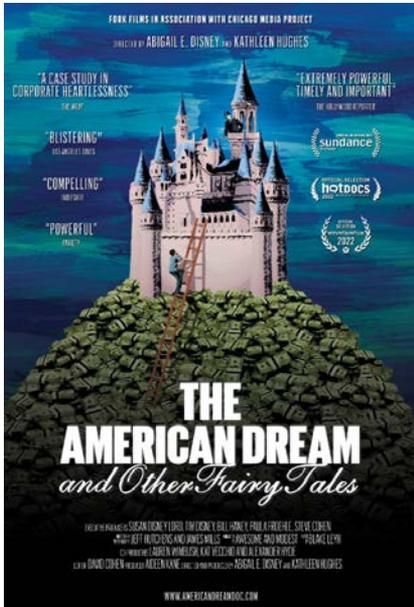
Directed by: Abigail E. Disney and Kathleen Hughes

Documentary Feature (2022)

Program 19

Abigail Disney looks at America's dysfunctional and unequal economy and asks why the American Dream has worked for the wealthy, yet is a nightmare for people born with less. Using her

family's story, she explores how this systemic injustice took hold and imagines a way toward a more equitable future.



In this feature-length, personal essay documentary, Abigail encounters workers at Disney struggling to put food on the table. Could she, a descendant, with no role in the multinational conglomerate, use her famous last name to help pressure Disney and other American corporations to treat low-wage workers more humanely? Believing her

conservative grandfather, Roy Disney, (Walt's brother and company co-founder) would never have tolerated employee hunger at "The Happiest Place On Earth", Abigail reexamines the story of modern American capitalism from the middle of the last century, when wealth was shared more equitably, to today, when CEO's earn upwards of 800 times more than their average employees.

## **The Battle of Chile - 3 Parts (264m)**

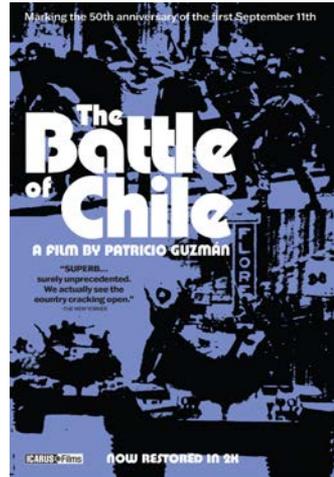
**Directed by: Patricio Guzmán**

**Documentary Feature (1975-1978) Chile/Cuba**

**Newly restored in 2023 to 2K!**

**Program 22 - The People's Forum Nov 4th, 3:00pm**

On September 11, 1973, President Salvador Allende's democratically-elected Chilean government was overthrown in a bloody coup by General Augusto Pinochet's army. Patricio Guzmán and five colleagues had been filming the political developments in Chile throughout the nine months leading up to that day. The bombing of the Presidential Palace, during which Allende died, would now become the ending for Guzman's seminal documentary *The Battle of Chile*, an epic chronicle of that country's open and peaceful socialist revolution, and of the violent counter-revolution against it.



## **The Devil's Avocado (19m)**

**Directed by: Kees-Jan Mulder**

**Narrative Short (2022) Netherlands**

**Program 6 and 14**

When a man regrets the abuses in the family business on his deathbed, his granddaughter seems to be the right person to change the company for good - were it not for an uncle and aunt who think slightly differently about this.

## **The Exchange Girl (9m)**

**Directed by: George Larkin**

**Documentary Short (2023)**

**Program 10**

*The Exchange Girl* is a short documentary about women working in dangerous conditions in silent film post-production. Those positions did provide women with an entry point to film



work, but those jobs suddenly disappeared with the coming of sound. The film also explores how Margaret Booth, one of the great editors, started her legendary career that way.

## **The Farmer-Labor Movement: A Minnesota Story (57m)**

**Directed by: Randy Croce**

**Documentary Feature (2022)**

**Program 9**

The Farmer-Labor movement founded the most successful third party in U.S. political history. Directly based on the militant organizing of the state's emerging labor and farm organizations, this progressive movement elected candidates and advanced political change in Minnesota from 1917 until it merged with the Democrats in 1944, to form the DFL, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. The documentary portrays this history through the voices of Farmer-Labor leaders and their descendants, as well as contemporary historians, union and co-op and activists. Animated segments bring the personal stories of Farmer-Labor men and women to life, while songs from the period convey the spirit of the movement.



## **The Girls In the Band (87m)**

**Directed by: Judy Chaikin**

**Documentary Feature (2011)**

**Program 23 - Local 802 AFM Club Room Nov 6th, 7:00pm**



*The Girls In the Band* tells the poignant, untold stories of female jazz and big band instrumentalists and their fascinating, groundbreaking journeys from the late 20's to the present day.

These incredibly

talented women endured sexism, racism and diminished opportunities for decades, yet continue today to persevere, inspire and elevate their talents in a field that seldom welcomed them.

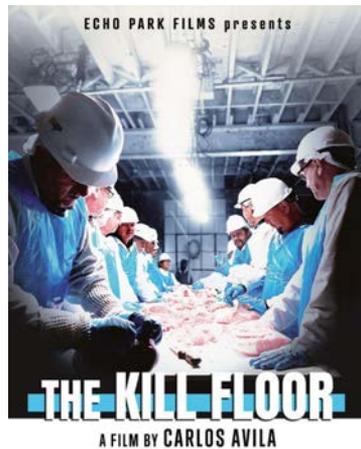
## **The Kill Floor (27m)**

**Directed by: Carlos Avila**

**Narrative Short (2023)**

**Program 6 and 14**

When the COVID-19 pandemic engulfs a meatpacking plant in his rural hometown, a young Latinx reporter returns to uncover the urgent and deadly circumstances threatening the plant's workers – including his father.



## The Last Cobbler (15m)

Directed by: Matan Berman

Documentary Short (2023)

Program 15, 26

Nearing retirement without a successor, the last independent shoe-repairman in Ithaca, New York balances his needs with those of the community, in the ever-changing shoe repair landscape.

## The Revolt of the Good Guys (85m)

Directed by: Ann DeStefano

Sutherland and Jim Sauber

Documentary Feature (2022)

Program 4

Late on the evening of March 17th, 1970, 1,551 rank-and-file letter carriers in New York City did something that had never been done before. In an ultimate act of civil disobedience, they voted to strike against the federal government, igniting an illegal work stoppage that spread across the country like wildfire, crippling the nation's postal system. Eight days in March of 1970 marked the tipping point



for what had been a decades-long struggle for equality and respect. It was the nation's largest-ever wildcat strike, forcing

President Richard Nixon to come to the table. As a result, letter carriers earned a significant raise, collective bargaining rights

and the respect of a nation, shaping a brighter future for themselves and for those who came after them.



**The Silent People (18m)**  
**Directed by: Keith O'Grady**  
**Narrative Short (2023) Ireland**  
**Program 8 and 14**

Against the backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis, a young mixed-race Scots woman and a working-class Irish singer from Tallaght in Dublin are evicted without warning. After a year of living homeless on the streets, they chance upon the landlord that evicted them, and take him hostage.

**The Strength of the Future (3m)**  
**Directed by: Andrea Baglio**  
**Documentary Short (2023) Italy**  
**Program 6**

The importance of meeting young people and transmitting to them the values of social commitment - that they are the next workers and the strength of a union's future. Dedicated to the trade unionists of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.



# There Goes the Neighborhood (73m)

Directed by: Ian Phillips

Documentary Feature

(2022)

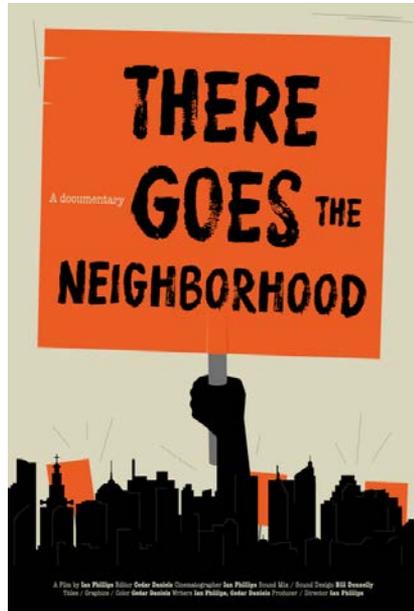
Program 10

New York City is currently undergoing a period of Hyper-Gentrification. It has become a haven for the wealthy when it was once a city that valued culture and community over money. This is a portrait of the communities that are fighting back.

Before COVID happened, the sky seemed to be the limit for corporate greed and that is when filming for this documentary began, with a specific focus on two lower-class neighborhoods that are in peril - Queens and the Lower East Side.

Here, there are local activists whose lives are centered around maintaining the ethos of their community. This made the film not just about a city, but about people - the

everyday working person who uses every free ounce of time and energy they have to fight back against their own displacement.

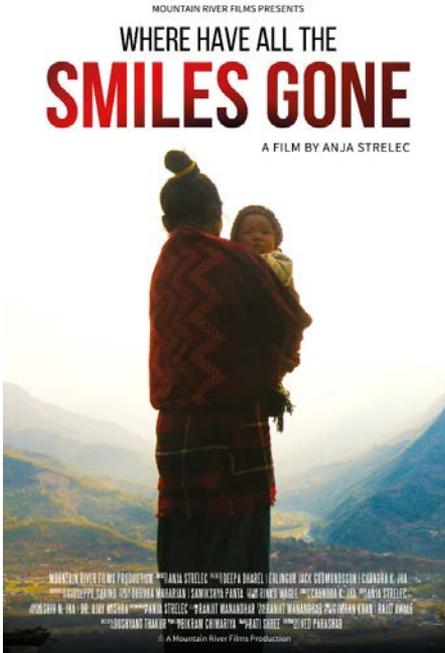


# Where Have All the Smiles Gone? (29m)

Directed by: Anja Strelec

Documentary Short (2023) Nepal

Program 17



Hoping for a better life and economic prosperity, Nepali workers move to foreign countries to earn money and help their families. However, in the destination countries they are often mistreated and deprived of their human rights, often coming back to Nepal in very bad health or dead in coffins due to the bad working conditions. Should people continue living in bad conditions in their own countries or die as slaves abroad?



# EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

## STUDY LABOR HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY WORKER ISSUES AT THE HARRY VAN ARSDALE JR. SCHOOL OF LABOR STUDIES, SUNY EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Labor studies at the Van Arsdale School features an examination of work, workers, and worker organizations, both historically and in contemporary contexts. It provides the opportunity for workers, unionists, activists and those generally interested in economic justice to critically examine the forces and relations of power that shape how we work and live, and to collectively assess ideas, policies, and worker-centered strategies for social change and justice.

In a Labor Studies classroom, the working-class experience is a point of departure for ongoing academic inquiry into the historical and contemporary role of work, workers, and the institutions they create in the making of a democratic society.

The Van Arsdale Schools offers online and face to face (at our location at 4 Park Avenue in Manhattan) programming for Associate, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Labor Studies. Those interested may also enroll on a non-matriculated basis, or partake of the School's non-credit workshops on Organizing and Leadership in Worker Organizations.

For more information please contact Student Services Director Nedelka McLean ([Nedelka.McLean@sunyempire.edu](mailto:Nedelka.McLean@sunyempire.edu)) or Faculty Chair Dr. Richard Wells ([Richard.Wells@sunyempire.edu](mailto:Richard.Wells@sunyempire.edu))

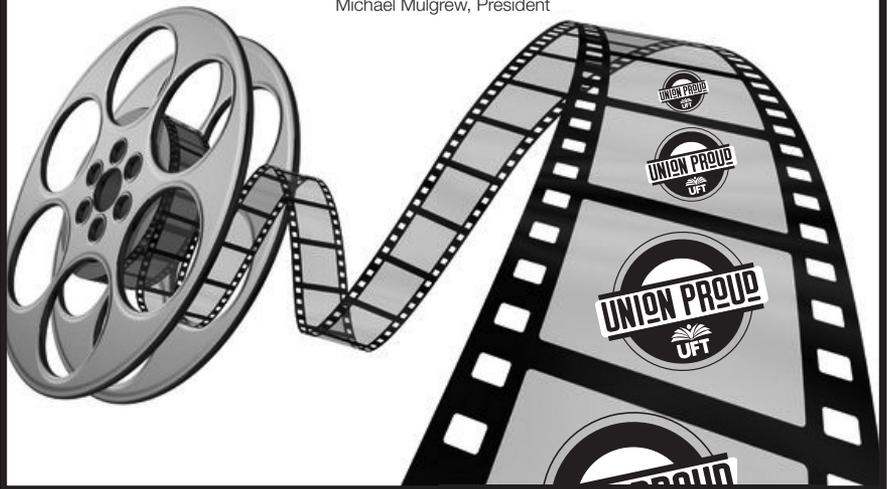
The United Federation of Teachers  
salutes the

# Workers Unite!

## 2023 Film Festival

for screening and promoting  
the real stories  
of workers  
and their global fight  
for survival.

United Federation of Teachers  
A Union of Professionals • [www.uft.org](http://www.uft.org)  
Michael Mulgrew, President





# Working Theater

congratulates

## Workers Unite Film Festival

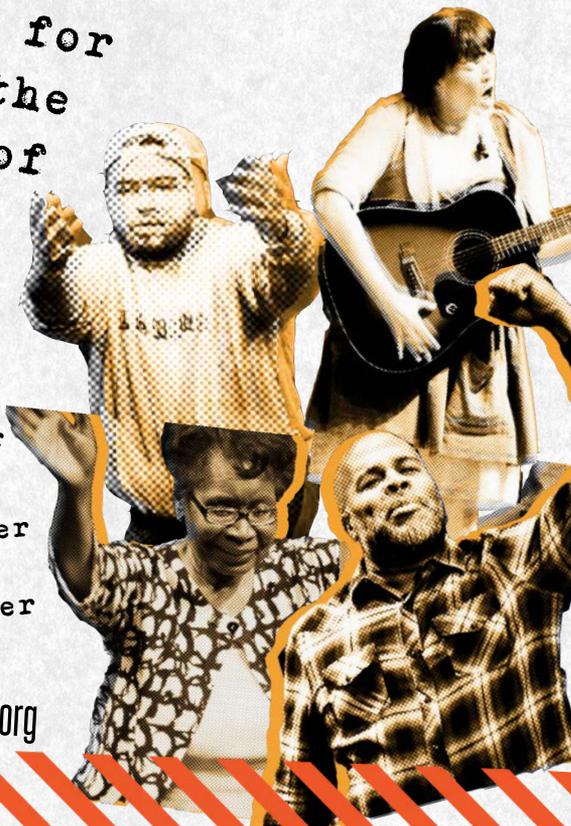
Thank you for  
telling the  
stories of  
working  
people.

 [workingtheater](#)

 [working.theater](#)

 [wrkingtheater](#)

[www.theworkingtheater.org](http://www.theworkingtheater.org)



# FAST-TRACK YOUR FILMMAKING CAREER



**SVA MFA SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY FILM**

**APPLY NOW FOR FALL 2024 | SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**



**SOCDOC**

**SVA.EDU/MFASOCDOC**



IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr.  
and the Executive Council are proud to support the

## 2023 WORKERS UNITE FILM FESTIVAL



**INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**  
Robert Martinez Jr.

**GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER**  
Dora Cervantes

**GENERAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

Gary R. Allen  
Brian Bryant  
Steve Galloway  
David Chartrand  
David Sullivan  
Richie Johnson  
Craig Martin

International Association of Machinists  
and Aerospace Workers

[goIAM.org](http://goIAM.org)

[f](#) [X](#) [@](#) [@MachinistsUnion](#)

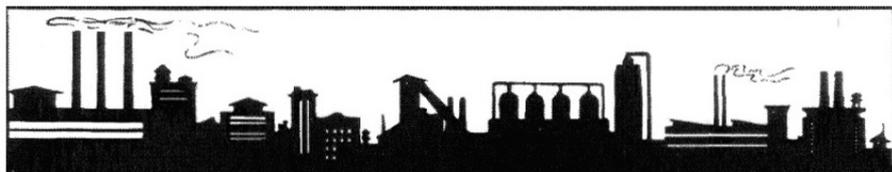
**SYNTONIC is Proud to Support**

**The Workers Unite Film Festival**

**SYNTONIC SYSTEMS, INC.**

*Providers of Software Solutions and Administrative Services  
To Labor Unions and Benefit Funds*

**Robert Lichterman** - 111 John Street, Suite 1700, New York, NY 10038  
New Jersey Office - 9-25 Alling Street - 2nd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102  
212 989-8787 Fax 212 989-9515  
Benefits@Syntonic-ny.com



**NEW YORK LABOR HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

A bridge between past and present

# MAGNACARE<sup>SM</sup>

is proud to support the

## Workers Unite Film Festival

---

MAGNACARE™

---

Your trusted TPA, providing exceptional  
value for more than 30 years

877.624.6220 | [info@magnacare.com](mailto:info@magnacare.com) | [magnacare.com](http://magnacare.com)





## **Third World Newsreel**

*salutes*

**The 12th Annual  
Workers Unite! Film Festival**

**twn**   
THIR**WORLD**NEWSREEL



**GVS**

GENERAL®  
VISION  
SERVICES



**EPIC**  
HEARING HEALTHCARE

**Your Vision Plan Sounds Better!**

Our first-rate vision programs offer comprehensive hearing plans through EPIC Hearing Healthcare!  
GVS is dedicated to America's unions and proud of our union office staff, Local 153 OPEIU.

**800.VISION.1 • [generalvision.com](http://generalvision.com)**



**PSC**  
**CUNY**

**JOBS**   
**WITH JUSTICE**



**PROUD FESTIVAL SPONSOR**

**32BJ**  **SEIU**



*As the largest union of property service workers in the country, 32BJ SEIU represents 175,000 members who provide essential work to our communities every day.*

*We are proud to support working people in improving their workplaces - and our communities - to build a more just society for present and future generations.*



**LaborPress** **ORG**  
A PROUD UNION COMPANY



***THE INDEPENDENT  
DRIVERS GUILD -  
NEW YORK  
SALUTES THE 2023  
WORKERS UNITE!  
FILM FESTIVAL***

IDG is proud to help drivers with deactivation appeals, legal issues, and fighting for liveable wages and a union for Uber, Lyft, and delivery drivers in New York.

Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW is a proud supporter of  
Workers Unite Film Festival

*Congratulations*

And Thank You for Uplifting the  
Voices of Working People



JOHN R. DURSO  
*President*

JOSEPH FONTANO  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

NEIL GONZALVO  
*Executive Vice President*

ROSA LAFONTAINE  
*Recorder*

***"Bettering the lives of our members and all working people"***

338 [www.local338.org](http://www.local338.org)  Like us: [facebook.com/local338](https://facebook.com/local338)  Follow us: [twitter.com/local338](https://twitter.com/local338)  Follow us: [instagram.com/local338](https://instagram.com/local338)

LOCAL 338 RWDSU/UFCW | 1505 Kellum Place Mineola, New York 11501 | 516.294.1338

WE ARE  
**STRONGER TOGETHER**



# SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

Harry Van Arsdale Jr. School of Labor Studies (HVASLS)



Best Wishes to the  
Workers Unite!  
Film Festival

From all of your friends at Segal



# NLMC

NATIONAL LABOR & MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

## 47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 15-20, 2024

The Diplomat Beach Resort  
Hollywood, FL

“The ability of this conference to bring everyone together on one platform is really unsurpassed in the industry.”

### • Outstanding Networking

It's the comment we hear again and again, "The NLMC gives me the networking opportunities I'm looking for".

### • Critical Updates on Key Issues

Updates from thought leaders in Labor and subject matter experts in managing Taft-Hartley funds.

### • Labor Activism Update

From fighting for wages, improving healthcare and working conditions, labor leaders share their goals and struggles.

**Don't Be Left Out!**

**Register today!**

[www.LaborAndManagement.org](http://www.LaborAndManagement.org)



*"We've been attending the National Labor & Management Conference for 19 years. It's very special to us."*

*— Michelle Zettergren, MagnaCare, President,  
Chief Sales & Marketing Officer*

**CONTACT:** Carol Shields

**Email:** [cshields@laborandmanagement.org](mailto:cshields@laborandmanagement.org)

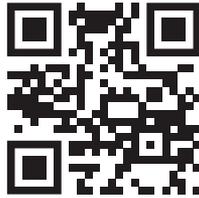
**Phone:** 888-459-3111



On strike for 148 days.

Fighting for workers  
every day of the year.

Learn more about the Guild at  
[wgaeast.org](http://wgaeast.org) or by scanning below



Follow us on all platforms:  
@WGAEast

# VISIT THE FREELANCERS HUB!

The new **FREE**  
co-working space  
for NYC's  
Freelancers in  
Industry City,  
Brooklyn  
In partnership with  
Mayors Office of  
Media and  
Entertainment



Check out our workshops and  
reserve a **FREE** co-working space.



# MUSIC

makes workers' stories

# STRONGER



The American Federation of Musicians is proud to sponsor the Workers Unite Film Festival and encourages producers to use union contracts when hiring musicians, composers and all talent.



LOCAL **852** AFM



**SAG·AFTRA®**

**PROUD SUPPORTER  
OF  
WORKERS UNITE  
FILM FESTIVAL**



**PAUSE**



**07:14:23**

# **Workers Unite! Film Festival**

is grateful for the generous support of the  
Puffin Foundation.

**We Couldn't Do It Without  
Your Help!**

The Puffin Foundation Ltd.  
has sought to open the  
doors of artistic expression  
by providing grants to art-  
ists and art organizations  
who are often excluded  
from mainstream opportuni-  
ties due to their race, gen-  
der, or social philosophy.



The Puffin Foundation  
20 Puffin Way  
Teaneck, NJ 07666

**Funding made possible by  
the Puffin Foundation**