



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**[SONOMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL \(SIFF\)](#)**

**ANNOUNCES LIVE SUMMERFEST EVENT AUGUST 5-8, 2021**

**One Of First In Person Gatherings To Launch in Sonoma | Passes Go On Sale Today  
Indoor Theatre & Outdoor Winery Events Slated | New Films, Old Friends**

Sonoma, CA June 15, 2021--Sonoma International Film Festival (SIFF) will be one of the first non-profit organizations in Sonoma to host larger in person events with SIFF SUMMERFEST August 5-8, 2021.

The event features 40 narratives, documentaries and short films from 15 countries screening in person at Sebastiani Theatre and Andrews Hall (at the Sonoma Community Center), two outdoor winery screenings with live music, and SIFF Screen & Cuisine, a dinner, live music and film special event.

Fifteen films are making their premieres at SIFF SUMMERFEST; and half of all films were made by or about women. The free to the community favorites--the UFO Program, the Sonoma Valley High School Media Arts Student Showcase and a Buster Keaton silent film accompanied by live music from Sonoma Hometown Band Music Director John Partridge are also slated. SIFF SUMMERFEST is made possible, in part, with funds from Creative Sonoma and National Endowment for the Arts.

"We wanted to be the first to bring folks together again in Sonoma," said SIFF Artistic Director Kevin W. McNeely. "While our virtual festivals over the past two years were successful and expanded our audience, there is nothing quite like the collective experience of enjoying new films, and our unique brand of live entertainment, in person with others. We've been a cultural gem for over 24 years, providing the best in film, food, wine and fun, and we intend to deliver on that commitment with SIFF SUMMERFEST."

Opening Night kicks off on Thursday, August 5 at Sebastiani Theatre at 6 PM PT and Andrews Hall at 6:30 PM PT with the screening of documentary TOM PETTY, SOMEWHERE YOU FEEL FREE, a unique take on the Petty legacy, diving deep into a condensed period of creativity and freedom for the

legendary rock star. San Francisco-based tribute band PETTY THEFT will play acoustically prior to the screening at Sebastiani Theatre, and then play two sets following both in person screenings at the SIFF SUMMERFEST Opening Night party at Reel & Brand starting at 8:30 PM PT. An Opening Night Reception for SIFF SUMMERFEST Patron Passholders will be held at Edge at 4:30 PM PT. Tickets for the Opening Night party are available for \$20 on a limited basis based on capacity. Food and beverage is available for purchase; complimentary wine bar is included with the Patron Pass.

### **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS AT SIFF SUMMERFEST:**

#### **OUTDOOR EVENTS:**

**Friday, August 6 | 6 PM PT:** Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to Chateau St. Jean Winery to enjoy live music before the outdoor screening of the just released romantic comedy SENIOR MOMENT starring William Shatner, Jean Smart, Christopher Lloyd and Esai Morales. SIFF SUMMERFEST Patron Passholders receive a special library wine tasting experience. Food and wine available for purchase.

**Saturday, August 7 | 6 PM PT:** SIFF Screen & Cuisine features a reception with select wines from Sojourn Cellars, a film inspired dinner from Top Chef All Star and Folktale Restaurant Consulting Executive Chef Casey Thompson at Cornerstone. A live music set from San Francisco cult surf band THE MERMEN will play prior to the screening of THE VENTURES: STARS ON GUITARS, the documentary about the #1 instrumental rock band in the world, who created the iconic hits “ Wipe Out” and “Hawaii 5-0”. The event is included with the SIFF Patron Pass; individual tickets for Screen & Cuisine, as well as a Music & Movie Only ticket are available on a limited basis based on capacity.

**Sunday, August 8 | 6 PM PT:** Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to SIFF SUMMERFEST Closing Night at Viansa Winery featuring live music, Viansa’s pizza oven and wine are available for purchase, prior to the North American premiere of Australian feature film JUNE AGAIN, a heartfelt dramedy about a matriarch’s reprieve from illness who brings her family together again.

#### **INDOOR EVENTS:**

Forty new and #SIFF2021 award winning films screen at Sebastiani Theatre and Andrews Hall starting at 9 AM PT daily Friday through Sunday. Filmmakers and guests slated to attend include Ruth Meehan (director of SIFF2021 audience award winner THE BRIGHT SIDE making its live West Coast premiere), Tom Waller (director of THE CAVE), Troy Christian (director of A PERFECT VINTAGE making its live World Premiere), and Kevin Smokler (director of VINYL NATION). Notable new indie favorite films include FRIES, THE MOVIE produced by Chrissy Teigan, GIRLS CAN’T SURF directed by Christopher Neilus , MA BELLE, MY BEAUTY from director Marion Hill, SON OF MONARCHS from director Alexis Gambis, and VOODOO MacBETH which are all screening in Sonoma for the first time.

#### **INDOOR EVENTS | FREE TO THE PUBLIC:**

**Saturday, August 7 | 4:45 PM PT at Sebastiani Theatre:** Sonoma Hometown Band Music Director John Partridge will play live music set to the 1922 silent comedy film COPS starring and written by the iconic Buster Keaton.

**Saturday, August 7 | 5:30 PM PT at Sebastiani Theatre:** The popular 10 years and running UFO Program is back with THE PHENOMENON produced by Sonoman Jim Ledwith. Narrated by Peter Coyote, this feature length documentary pieces together over 70 years of information to tell the definitive UFO history. Free to the general public.

**Sunday, August 8 | 12 PM PT at Andrews Hall:** SIFF's signature initiative -- the Sonoma Valley High School Media Arts Program -- also returns with this year's Student Showcase film compilation featuring 26 films made by 38 students. Free to the general public, student and family reception to follow in the Peace Garden.

The full lineup of films and special events is online at [SIFF Summerfest 2021](#). Limited availability Patron (\$525) and Film (\$100) passes are on sale at [SIFF Summerfest Passes](#). Individual tickets for the Opening Night party, Friday and Sunday night outdoor winery screenings, and Saturday's SIFF Screen & Cuisine and Music & Movie Only are also available to purchase now. Individual film screenings may be available, based on capacity and passholder priority.

SIFF SUMMERFEST sponsors include: Aer Lingus, Christine Curry Design, Euphoria Exquisite Retreats, Folktable, Landers Curry, Inc., Napa Sonoma Magazine, National Association of Social Workers, Pets Lifeline, Shiftboard, Sonoma Conservatory of Dance, Official Media Partner Sonoma Magazine, Sonoma's Best Hospitality Group, Spritz, Tito's Vodka; and partners Chateau St. Jean, Cornerstone, MacArthur Place, Sebastiani Theatre, Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma County, Sonoma Tourism Improvement District, Sonoma Valley Education Foundation, and Viansa Winery.

### **About Sonoma International Film Festival**

The Sonoma International Film Festival is a 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to promoting independent film, supporting filmmakers around the world, and inspiring film lovers. Blending a program of world-class film, food, wine and fun, SIFF is celebrating its 25th anniversary March 23-27, 2022.

SIFF's signature initiative--the Media Arts Program started at Sonoma Valley High School in 2002--introduces students to the process of storytelling and provides the resources for them to create films. SIFF has granted more than \$650,000 to the program since its inception.

The best way to experience SIFF SUMMERFEST and have access to all indoor films and outdoor special events is through the SIFF SUMMERFEST Patron Pass for \$525. The SIFF SUMMERFEST Film Pass for \$100 provides access to all films screened in theatres. Public health and safety guidelines will be followed for all events. Schedule subject to change. For information, please visit [SIFF Summerfest 2021](#).

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