

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

OAK CLIFF FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2021 FEATURE PROGRAMMING

The 10th annual edition of the festival returns to the historic Texas Theatre and other venues in Dallas' Oak Cliff neighborhood June 24-27, Featuring The Dallas Premiere of Questlove's SUMMER OF SOUL, Udo Kier in SWAN SONG (with Udo in attendance), + MY NAME IS LOPEZ about Dallas born hero Trini Lopez , plus a Live Score / Silent Film Drive-in featuring the music of Ennio Morricone, an In-Theatre DJ set by Dan Deacon, a Texas Film Commission anniversary screening of TRUE STORIES, the upcoming HBO MAX release WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE WORLD'S FAIR, Oscar Nominee Riz Ahmed in MOGUL MOWGLI and much more!

Festival badges and tickets on sale now at OakCliffFilmFestival.com

DALLAS, TX - May 24, 2021 - Oak Cliff Film Festival is excited to announce the Feature Program lineup for the 10th annual edition of the festival, taking place *June 24-27, 2021* at the historic Texas Theatre, Bishop Arts Theatre Center, Kessler Theater, and numerous other venues around Dallas' vibrant Oak Cliff neighborhood. This year's schedule consists of 23 feature-length films, with 15 of the films having their Texas premiere at this year's festival. The festival also includes 34 short films, opening and closing night parties, live streamed filmmaking workshops, live music events with Austin's Montopolis and Mexican Summer recording artist Hayden Pedigo.

"We welcome movie goers and film fans to another Oak Cliff Film Festival! We had to skip a year of our regular program but are excited to be back showing movies to real people in actual places! That being said, we will continue to follow COVID-19 guidelines from Dallas county and the CDC. Indoors screenings will be limited to 50% capacity, mask wearing is encouraged for attendees, and hand sanitizer will be available everywhere - thanks to our friends at Methodist Dallas Medical Center." said The Oak Cliff Film Society board of directors.

Kicking off proceedings with this year's opening night film is director Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson's SUMMER OF SOUL (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised), a powerful and transporting documentary—part music film, part historical record created around an epic event that celebrated Black history, culture and fashion in the summer of 1969 in Harlem. The screening will include a Q/A with the film's producers hosted by Grammy winning artist Shaun Martin and followed by an in-theater soul DJ set by DJ Jay Clipp.

Additional festival highlights include: a silent film / live score drive-in of the 1916 western, *THE RETURN OF DRAW EGAN with Live Score Accompaniment* by Austin's Montopolis featuring the music of Ennio Morricone; the 4K Restoration of the lost Dennis Hopper punk classic *OUT OF THE BLUE*, the Texas local election documentary, *KID CANDIDATE*, followed by a live backyard concert at the Wild Detectives; the controversial Sundance film *JOHN IN THE HOLE*; the future cult sensation indie-animation *CRYPTOZOO*; the DFW premiere of the X-Ray Spex front woman story *POLY STYRENE: I AM A CLICHÉ*; surrealist festival favorite *STRAWBERRY MANSION*; plus a Saturday Night DJ Dan Deacon Dance Party at the Texas Theatre.

The 2021 Oak Cliff Film Festival is once again partnered with the Austin Film Society, filmmaker David Lowery, and Tim Headington's Ley Line Entertainment to provide emerging North Texas filmmakers grant funds specifically to make feature films. Additionally, we are proud to promote the North Texas Pioneer Film Grant of \$30,000 as a part of the 2021 AFS Grant funds with the specific intention of promoting DFW area filmmakers with underrepresented perspectives.

See the Oak Cliff Film Festival 2021 Feature Program lineup below. The full schedule, including all the Shorts Programs, is available [online](#).

OAK CLIFF FILM FESTIVAL 2021 FEATURE PROGRAM

OPENING NIGHT SELECTION

OPENING NIGHT

SUMMER OF SOUL (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised) (USA, 117 mins)

8:00 PM - THURS June 24 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson

In his acclaimed debut as a filmmaker, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson presents a powerful and transporting documentary—part music film, part historical record created around an epic event that celebrated Black history, culture and fashion. Over the course of six weeks in the summer of 1969, just one hundred miles south of Woodstock, The Harlem Cultural Festival was filmed in Mount Morris Park (now Marcus Garvey Park). The footage was never seen and largely forgotten—until now. *SUMMER OF SOUL* shines a light on the importance of history to our spiritual well-being and stands as a testament to the healing power of music during times of unrest, both past and present. The feature includes never-before-seen concert performances by Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly & the Family Stone, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Mahalia Jackson, B.B. King, The 5th Dimension and more.

SUMMER OF SOUL premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, where it won both the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award. It will stream on Hulu in conjunction with Disney General Entertainment's the Onyx Collective; Searchlight Pictures will release it theatrically.

SPOTLIGHT FEATURES

MOGUL MOWGLI (UK/USA, 89 mins) 8:15 PM - SUN June 27 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Bassam Tariq

On the brink of his first international tour, Zed, a British Pakistani rapper, decides to fly home to the UK to visit the family he has not seen in two years. In the midst of trying to reconnect with his parents, he is suddenly struck down by an autoimmune disease. As his condition worsens and his big breakthrough moment is in danger of vanishing into thin air, Zed descends into a physical and emotional crisis, amplified by vivid hallucinations.

TEXAS PREMIERE

KID CANDIDATE (USA, 65 mins) 7:00 PM - FRI June 25 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Jasmine Stodel

In 2018, 24-year old Hayden Pedigo released a spoof video declaring his candidacy for Amarillo city council. After the video goes viral in the local community, Pedigo is inspired to actually run for council in the small Texas town. With a goal of upending the status quo and ousting the county's corrupt incumbent politicians, the young experimental musician and filmmaker makes a name for himself – not just for his bizarre campaign, but for reaching out to the local communities that have suffered the most in Amarillo. While still keeping a humorous and light-hearted tone, KID CANDIDATE goes beyond Pedigo's political run and looks at issues of race, income inequality and gentrification in small-town America.

DFW PREMIERE

Filmmaker Jasmine Stodel and “candidate” Hayden Pedigo in attendance.

SWAN SONG (USA, 105 mins) 9:00 PM - FRI June 25 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Todd Stephens

Legendary character actor Udo Kier stars as retired hairdresser Pat Pitsenbarger who has given up on life from the confines of his small-town Sandusky, Ohio nursing home. But when Pat gets word that a former client's dying wish was for him to style her final hairdo, he sets out on an odyssey across Sandusky to confront the ghosts of his past - and collect the beauty supplies necessary for the job. SWAN SONG is a comical and bittersweet journey about rediscovering one's sparkle, and looking gorgeous while doing so.

DFW PREMIERE

Filmmaker Todd Stephens and Star Udo Kier in attendance.

CRYPTOZOO (USA, 95 mins) 9:15 PM - FRI June 25 - Bishop Arts Theatre Center

Dir. Dash Shaw

Cryptids are creatures whose existence is disputed or unsubstantiated. When Amber and Matt get lost in the woods during a sex date, they stumble upon a high-security fence. On the other side, they find a cryptid—a unicorn—that will change their lives. Military brat Lauren spent her childhood nights in a nightmarish state, until a mythical baku came to eat her dreams, releasing

her from nocturnal torment. Lauren decides to dedicate her life to rescuing and sheltering cryptids from those who seek to exploit them, so she becomes a cryptozookeeper. But when Lauren's and Amber's paths cross, Lauren begins to wonder if displaying these rare beasts in confinement is better than enabling these mythical creatures to remain hidden and unknown.

TEXAS PREMIERE

JOHN AND THE HOLE (USA, 73 mins) 6:15 PM - SAT June 26 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Pascual Sisto

While exploring the neighboring woods, 13-year-old John (Charlie Shotwell) discovers an unfinished bunker—a deep hole in the ground. Seemingly without provocation, he drugs his affluent parents (Michael C. Hall and Jennifer Ehle) and older sister (Taissa Farmiga) and drags their unconscious bodies into the bunker, where he holds them captive. As they anxiously wait for John to free them from the hole, the boy returns home, where he can finally do what he wants.

TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmaker Pascual Sisto in attendance

FAYA DAYI (Ethiopia, 120 mins) 12:30 PM - SUN June 27 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Jessica Beshir

Khat, a flowering plant with leaves that produce a stimulant effect when chewed, has been harvested in Ethiopia for centuries. With social significance in communities around the world, khat is a cash crop, sustaining so many who have worked in the fields for generations. However familiar the work is, some young people who have grown up in its shadow want more. They consider leaving home and all they have ever known for something new, faraway, and, while perhaps more economically beneficial, lonelier and more isolating.

TEXAS PREMIERE

NO ORDINARY MAN (Canada, 84 mins) 4:15 PM - SUN June 27 - Bishop Arts Theatre Center

Dir. Aisling Chin-Yee & Chase Joynt

Revered jazz musician Billy Tipton gained fame throughout the United States in the 1940s and '50s—a time when trans representation in the music industry was virtually non-existent. Since then, Tipton has become a foundational icon of transmasculinity. Complicated, beautiful and historically unrivaled, this groundbreaking film shows what is possible when a community collaborates to honor the legacy of an unlikely hero.

TEXAS PREMIERE

WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING (USA, 96 mins) 5:30 PM - SUN June 27 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Sean King O'Grady

For teenager Melissa, family dysfunction is the norm. When a freak tornado traps Melissa inside the family home's bathroom with her parents and younger brother, those rifts are exacerbated. As their confinement within the increasingly-more-claustrophobic-by-the-hour lavatory stretches to multiple days, the situation grows extremely volatile. But there's more than just hard feelings threatening the family. Something evil is beyond the walls, toying with them. Is this the family's

reckoning at the hands of a higher power? Or was it unintentionally triggered by Melissa and her girlfriend, Amy? Whatever the cause is, one thing's for certain: All hell is about to break loose.

TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmakers Sean King O'Grady & Max Booth in attendance.

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

STRAWBERRY MANSION (USA, 90 mins) 3:30 PM - SAT June 26 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Albert Birney & Kentucker Audley

In the not-too-distant future, an all-seeing surveillance state conducts “dream audits” to collect taxes on the unconscious lives of the populace. Mild-mannered government agent James Preble travels to a remote farmhouse to audit the dreams of Arabella “Bella” Isadora, an eccentric, aging artist. Entering Bella’s vast VHS archive, which contains a lifetime of dreams, Preble stumbles upon a secret that offers him a chance at love—and hope for escape.

TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmakers Albert Birney, Kentucker Audley, and Becca Brooks Morrin in attendance.

STOP-ZEMLIA (Ukraine, 122 mins) 6:30 PM - SAT June 26 - Texas Theatre Upstairs

Dir. Kateryna Gornostai

Hanging out with friends, smoking too much, spinning bottles and kissing, making mistakes, playing, refusing to accept, dreaming with open eyes – life as a teenager can be overwhelmingly beautiful and difficult at the same time. Introverted high school girl Masha sees herself as an outsider unless she’s hanging out with her two best friends, Yana and Senia, who share her non-conformist status. While trying to navigate through her last year of school, Masha falls in love in a way that forces her out of her comfort zone. In her debut, the Ukrainian director Kateryna Gornostai composes a deeply emotional and multi-layered portrait of a generation whilst seamlessly flowing between the fictional and the documental.

TEXAS PREMIERE

A BLACK RIFT BEGINS TO YAWN (USA, 100 mins) 6:45 PM - SAT June 26 - Bishop Arts Theatre Center

Dir. Matt Wade

Through a mysterious circumstance, two former classmates come into possession of their deceased professor’s set of cassette tapes, which possibly contain recordings of signals from beyond the stars. As the women dig into the recordings, they begin to feel memories, the chronology of time, and their identities slip into obscurity.

TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmakers Matthew Wade and Sara Lynch in attendance.

WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE WORLD'S FAIR (USA, 86 mins) 9:00 PM - SAT June 26 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Jane Schoenbrun

Late on a cold night somewhere in the U.S., teenage Casey sits alone in her attic bedroom, scrolling the internet under the glow-in-the-dark stars and black-light posters that blanket the ceiling. She has finally decided to take the World's Fair Challenge, an online role-playing horror game, and embrace the uncertainty it promises. After the initiation, she documents the changes that may or may not be happening to her, adding her experiences to the shuffle of online clips available for the world to see. As she begins to lose herself between dream and reality, a mysterious figure reaches out, claiming to see something special in her uploads.

TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmaker Jane Schoenbrun in attendance.

EL PLANETA (Spain/USA, 79 mins) 7:00 PM - SUN June 27 - The Kessler Theater

Dir. Amalia Ulman

After her father's death, Leo leaves her life as a fashion student in London and returns to her hometown of Gijón, Spain, where her mother is on the verge of eviction. The two scheme their next meal by selling personal items online and running up tabs based on extensive lies. Their impending misfortune does not stop the pair from dressing up in their best fur coats, heading to the mall to sample makeup, and buying cute shoes (as long as they are returnable). The grifting is delicious, and their familial bond over common tragedy strengthens as evident doom nears.

TEXAS PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

OFF THE ROAD (Mexico/USA, 78 mins) 1:45 PM - SAT June 26 - Bishop Arts Theatre Center

Dir. José Permar

A group of young musicians sing in the style of 'corridos' the deeds of three men who live in the most isolated region of the Baja California Sur desert. As the "Baja 1000", the world's largest annual all-terrain car race, takes place crossing the Mexican-US border, these men look for an opportunity to be a part of it and escape the apparent monotony of their small communities.

TEXAS PREMIERE

THE WITCHES OF THE ORIENT (France, 100 mins) 4:00 PM - SAT June 26 - Bishop Arts Theatre Center

Dir. Julien Faraut

Journey to meet the former players of the Japanese women's volleyball team. Now in their 70s, they used to be known as the 'Witches of the Orient' because of their seemingly supernatural powers on the courts. From the formation of the squad in the late 1950s as a worker's team at a textile factory, right up until their triumph at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, their memories and true magic from long ago bubble up into a heady brew where fact and fable fly hand in hand.

TEXAS PREMIERE

LUCHADORAS (Germany, 92 mins) 1:45 PM - SUN June 27 - Bishop Arts Theatre Center

Dir. Paola Calvo & Patrick Jasim

LUCHADORAS portrays the courageous female wrestlers of Ciudad Juárez, a city known for its high femicide rates. There is Mini Serinita who's biggest dream is to become a full time Luchadora and leave the factory work that disenfranchises so many women for good. Lady Candy who can see the US Border, where her daughters were taken, from her house but due to visa regulations can never cross it. And Baby Star, the young single mother who was a Lucha Libre Star at an early age and now makes her way to a comeback. With Mexican passion they present a new image of what it means to be a woman in Mexico.

DFW PREMIERE

POLY STYRENE: I AM A CLICHÉ (UK, 96 mins) 3:15 PM - SUN June 27 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Celeste Bell & Paul Sng

Raucous music adorns this deep dive into the life of Poly Styrene (1957-2011), frontwoman of the pioneering English punk rock band, X-Ray Spex. A biracial woman operating in a majority-male, overwhelmingly white genre, Styrene made her biggest mark with her boisterous anthem, "Oh Bondage, Up Yours." Co-directed by Styrene's daughter Celeste Bell, this involving documentary offers up stirring band footage; recollections of bandmates, friends, and relatives; and most crucially, Bell's memories of her brilliant, mercurial mother.

DFW PREMIERE

MY NAME IS LOPEZ (USA, 98 mins) 4:00 PM - SUN June 27 - The Kessler Theater

Dir. P. David Ebersole & Todd Hughes

Born in Dallas to Mexican immigrants; Trini Lopez fought his way out of what was once "Little Mexico"; now known as Uptown with nothing more than a guitar and his voice. He formed a long-lasting and astonishing career despite racism and classism and is considered to be one of the first Latino rock stars as well as an honorary member of the Rat Pack.

TEXAS PREMIERE

REPERTORY

TRUE STORIES (USA, 1986, 89 mins) 8:45 PM - FRI June 25 - Turner House

Dir. David Byrne

David Byrne plays host to this bizarre patchwork of tabloid-inspired tales, set in the fictional town of Virgil, Texas. Cruising the streets in his cherry-red drop-top, Byrne introduces viewers to the local eccentrics gearing up for the town's 150th anniversary. They include a community leader with a thing for veggies, a woman so lazy she won't leave her bed, a lovelorn country singer and more!

FREE OUTDOOR SCREENING WITH RSVP. Presented by The Texas Film Commission.

OUT OF THE BLUE (USA, 1980, 94 mins) - 1:00 PM - SAT June 26 - Texas Theatre

Dir. Dennis Hopper

Dennis Hopper directs and stars in *OUT OF THE BLUE*—a spiritual sequel to his own *EASY RIDER*, chronicling the collapse of sixties idealism into the nihilistic haze of the eighties. Don (Hopper) is a truck driver in prison for drunkenly smashing his rig into a school bus. Linda Manz (*DAYS OF HEAVEN*) plays Cebe, his daughter, a teen rebel obsessed with Elvis and the Sex Pistols. Her mother waitresses, takes refuge in the arms of other men, and shoots up drugs. Cebe runs away to Vancouver's punk scene and ends up on probation under the care of psychiatrist Raymond Burr. After Don's release; the family struggles to reconnect as the revelation of dark secrets leads to a harrowing conclusion.

4K RESTORATION

THE RETURN OF DRAW EGAN with Live Score Accompaniment (USA, 1916, 60 mins) - **9:00**

PM - SAT June 26 - For Oak Cliff

Dir. William S. Hart

A screening of the classic silent western film *THE RETURN OF DRAW EGAN* featuring the music of Ennio Morricone performed live by Montopolis. 2013's Funniest Person in Austin, comedian Mac Blake and his partner Carlos LaRotta have rewritten the movie in the irreverent and absurdist style typical of his work with Master Pancake Theater. It's a hilarious and rowdy good time!

DRIVE-IN SCREENING - \$20 Per Car Load

Live score composed and performed by the band MONTOPOLIS.

ATTEND

VIP Badges and tickets for individual screenings are available for purchase [here](#). Tickets for individual screenings will also be available at the door for each venue at a later date.

For the latest festival developments and announcements, visit the Oak Cliff Film Festival [website](#) and follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

PRESS CREDENTIALS

We are now accepting press credential applications for Oak Cliff Film Festival 2021. To apply, please send your name and outlet as well as a letter of assignment from your editor or a business card to chris@filmoakcliff.com for consideration. The deadline to apply for press credentials is Wednesday, June 16th. Please note all applications are subject to approval.

OAK CLIFF FILM FESTIVAL Links

Facebook: [Facebook.com/FilmOakCliff](https://www.facebook.com/FilmOakCliff)

Twitter: [Twittter.com/FilmOakCliff](https://twitter.com/FilmOakCliff)

Instagram: [Instagram.com/FilmOakCliff](https://www.instagram.com/FilmOakCliff)

Website: [OakCliffFilmFestival.com](https://www.OakCliffFilmFestival.com)

FOR APPROVED PHOTOS FOR FILMS AND FILMMAKERS, [CLICK HERE](#)

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About [OAK CLIFF FILM FESTIVAL](#)

The Oak Cliff Film Festival was established in 2012 as a regional film festival in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas, Texas. The festival has been received national acclaim from prominent sources including *The New York Times*, *Filmmaker Magazine*, and *Moviemaker Magazine*. The Oak Cliff Film Festival is the main program of the 501 3(c) Oak Cliff Film Society. The Oak Cliff Film Festival, headquartered at the legendary Texas Theatre, features the very best of Oak Cliff's historic theater venues, highlights the popular restaurants and bars of the area, and seeks to showcase and cultivate the best of independent and brave filmmaking of all stripes from Texas and beyond. If you would like to get more information about the Oak Cliff Film Festival or its line-up, visit www.filmoakcliff.com or follow us – @filmoakcliff.

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