

2018 Queens World Film Festival Screening 188 Films By Filmmakers from N.Y.C. & Around the World

Queens Indie Film Fest starts March 15, and the Opening Night Program features the Emotional Punch sampler of six films that provides a taste of what's to come.

QUEENS , NEW YORK , USA, March 14, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- For the fifth year in a row, Investors Bank is helping the [Queens World Film Festival](#) (QWFF) bring over 180 locally and globally-sourced independent films to audiences in New York City's most diverse borough.

Based on the success of the 2017 QWFF, organizers Don and Katha Cato have expanded this year's Festival, which will run from March 15-25, 2018. The Eighth Annual QWFF's Opening Night Program, film screenings and special events, and networking opportunities will be held at the [Museum of the Moving Image](#) and The Zukor Theater at Kaufman Astoria Studios. Investors Bank is a lead sponsor of the Eighth Annual QWFF, along with the Queens Council on the Arts.

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*QWFF Executive Director
Katha Cato*

This year's QWFF is developing a dynamic program that includes feature-length movies, short narratives, documentaries and animation films, as well as interactive experiences with participating filmmakers. The programming, which is grouped in thematic blocks to create specific impact, presents original content created by filmmakers from across New York City and 36 nations. Out of 605 submissions, 180 films were chosen, 60 of which have been produced by filmmakers from the New York area. Also, 65 films were created by women and 26 of filmmakers are from Queens.

The gala Opening Night event for the Eighth Annual Queens World Film Festival will be presented by Investors Bank and will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018. The doors open at 7 p.m. at the Museum of the Moving Image, located at 36-01 35th Avenue in Astoria, Queens. The Opening Night Program starts at 8 PM in the Redstone Theater and the QWFF is screening six, short films grouped under the title of Emotional Punch. The films are Atomic Mother, director L.E. Salas; You Deserve Everything, director Goran Stolevski; Bricklayer's Poet, director Gino Cafarelli; Backstory, director Joschka Laukeniks; (Out)Caste, director Shilpi Shikha Agrawal; and Our Wonderful Nature, the Common Chameleon, director Tomer Eshed.



Filmmakers from NYC and 36 nations attended the Festival's media briefing at MoMI.

Prior to the screenings, QWFF Artistic Director Don Cato and Board Member Sandra Schulberg, who organized IndieCollect to preserve American independent films, are presenting the Spirit of Queens Honors. The honor will celebrate the achievements of Jan Oxenberg, who directed the landmark *Thank You and Good Night*, and her body of work as a film editor, producer and scenarist. Also, QWFF is recognizing Vincent Gagliostro, who directed the feature narrative *After Louie* starring the brilliant Alan Cummings.

The Festival's Executive Director Katha Cato commented, "The Festival will continue many of our signature elements: dynamic thematic programming, hosted screening events with engaging discussions, relevant networking opportunities and maximum access to the media. We are curating a festival that offers exciting, topical, bold and entertaining feature and short narrative, documentary, LGBTQ and animated films of all styles and genres."

Before the Opening Night program starts, guests can meet the filmmakers, directors, producers, actors and actresses, as well as editors and production teams. Tickets to the Opening Night event and the entire Festival can be purchase online from [Brown Paper Tickets](#).

Investors Bank Senior Vice President Ana Oliveira said, "We are grateful to Don and Katha Cato for their amazing efforts in nurturing filmmaking and the arts in our city's communities. The Festival provides a framework for filmmakers to present their stories about life and living. We invite our neighbors and friends to join us on Opening Night to celebrate this incredible showcase of independent filmmaking."

Investors Bank's sponsorship of the 2018 Queens Work Film Festival Opening Night event helps the organizers create a program that is welcoming, inclusive and exciting. The gala event at the Museum of the Moving Image sets the tone for the rest of the Festival.

About the 2018 Queens World Film Festival

The QWFF honors both national and international productions and includes an annual multi-day/multi-venue event, youth-oriented educational initiatives, and year-round screening opportunities for QWFF filmmakers, past and present.

The Festival is programmed in thematic blocks with evocative titles. Each program is followed by a



QWFF's Katha and Don Cato are driving forces behind the Festival's success.



Director L.E. Salas' (right center) film is one six to be shown on opening night.

post-screening dialogue to engage audiences from the demographically, diverse communities that comprise the Borough of Queens. For more details about the 2018 QWFF visit <https://www.queensworldfilmfestival.com>.

About Investors Bank

Investors Bank, headquartered in Short Hills, New Jersey, is a full-service community bank that has been serving customers since 1926. With over \$24 billion in assets and a network of more than 150 retail branches, Investors Bank delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors Bank's banking services include complete deposit, loan and cash management products for consumers and businesses.

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