

2017 Gold Coast International Film Festival Awards *Darkest Hour*, *Dare to Be Different* and *Underfire* with Top Feature Film Prizes

— Record crowds attend the 2017 Festival in venues throughout Long Island



GREAT NECK, NY — October 5, 2017 — This year's [Gold Coast International Film Festival](#) broke records all around featuring more than 80 feature-length and short films from 12 countries and dozens of visiting filmmakers and special guests. Of the more than 36 World, US, East Coast and Long Island premieres, the Festival had a record 15 sold out screenings including *Darkest Hour*, starring **Gary Oldman** as Sir Winston Churchill. The screening was followed by a Q&A with Churchill's granddaughter and renowned sculptor **Edwina Sandys** and was moderated by Emmy Award-winning journalist and Vice President/General Manager of WLIW, Diane Masciale. Other standing-room-only screenings included *Ben-Gurion*, *Epilogue*, which featured an unforgettable Q&A with Ben-Gurion's grandson; *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*, the first in a series of films presented by the Festival as part of its new *Science on Screen* initiative; *1945*, a haunting WWII drama; a 60th anniversary screening of *Pal Joey* featuring a Q&A with Frank Sinatra's granddaughter, and *Dare to Be Different*, about the influential Long Island radio station WLIR 92.7. The festival sold out 3 screenings of this film with special appearances at each screening by Director **Ellen Goldfarb**, Executive Producer and WLIR Program Director **Denis McNamara** and many of the former WLIR DJs. Other special guests included **Seymour Stein**, the founder of Sire Records and **May Pang**.

Over 4,500 people of all ages and from all over Long Island and the tri-state area (over 175 zip codes) attended films this year including hundreds of children and adults who attended our well-regarded short film programs at Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington and the Port Washington and Great Neck libraries as part of the festival's new *Free Film Friday* initiative. Additionally, dozens of veterans once again attended festival films for free, this year courtesy of a grant from GEICO.

The 2017 Gold Coast International Film Festival Feature Film Award Winners are:

Audience Award for Best Narrative Film

Darkest Hour, directed by Joe Wright and starring Gary Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas and Lily James.

Audience Award for Best Documentary Film

This year the award for Best Documentary Film is being presented to two films: ***Dare to Be Different*** and ***Underfire: The Untold Story of Pfc. Tony Vaccaro***. ***Underfire*** is the remarkable story of WWII infantryman and legendary photographer Tony Vaccaro, who created one of the most comprehensive, haunting and intimate photographic records of the war using a smuggled \$47 camera while developing the negatives in his helmet at night. **Tony Vaccaro** himself and Director **Max Lewkowicz** joined us for a post-screening Q&A, followed by the opening reception of Vaccaro's acclaimed, wartime and celebrity photography at the Gold Coast Arts Center Gallery in Great Neck. The exhibit, open until February 2018, was put together by Arts Center curator, and friend of Tony Vaccaro, Jude Amsel.

The 2017 Gold Coast International Film Festival Short Film Award Winners are:

Audience Awards

Winner: ***On the Run***, directed by Gianguido Spinelli; and ***Friday Night***, directed by Alexis Michalik

Runner Up: ***An Average Story***, directed by Yaniv Segalovich; and ***Aisle 4***, directed by Kyle McCallion, Gabriel Stoltz & Sam Monaghan

Honorable Mention: ***A Drowning Man***, directed by Stephen J. Lattanzi

Jury Awards

Winner: ***For You***, directed by Nora Jobling

Runner Up: ***Akado***, directed by Kim Belov; ***Fulfilament***, directed by Rhiannon Evans

Honorable Mention: ***Strange Beasts***, directed by Magali Barbe

Sponsors and partners of this year's Gold Coast International Film Festival included founding partners, the Town of North Hempstead and Douglas Elliman Real Estate; major partners, Hofstra University and the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency; as well as Neiman Marcus Garden City; GEICO; Deluxe Entertainment Services Group; AARP Long Island; A.L. Sarroff Fund; Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP; The Katz Institute for Women's Health at Northwell Health; St. Mary's Kids; Jet Blue; Biener Audi; LVR Rental; The Inn at Great Neck; The Andrew Hotel; WLIW21; Altice; New York Women in Film & Television; Anton Publications; Blank Slate Media; LI Pulse; Edelman Financial Services, LLC; and LOLA of Great Neck.

Additional support was received from many in-kind sponsors including: Ayhan's Shish-Kebab (Port Washington), Grace's Marketplace (Greenvale), Best Bagel (Great Neck), Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza, Grill Time (Great Neck), Lazars Chocolate (Great Neck), Colbeh (Great Neck), Bosphorus Café Grill (Port Washington), Mediterranean Seafood & Grill (Great Neck), Laura Lederman (Great Neck) and Little Neck Beverage (Manhasset).

For information about upcoming films in the festival's year-round screening program visit www.goldcoastfilmfestival.org.

About the Gold Coast International Film Festival

Since 2011, the festival has brought the latest Hollywood hits and Indie favorites to standing room only audiences throughout the fabled Gold Coast of Long Island. Add A-list celebrities and unforgettable events to the mix and it's easy to see why the Gold Coast International Film Festival has become the "go to" festival for film buffs and the public; (it is also the last major film festival on the East Coast before Awards season). The Gold Coast International Film Festival is produced by the not-for-profit Gold Coast Arts Center.

Previous honorees and special guests of the festival and the Gold Coast Arts Center include film industry VIPs **Francis Ford Coppola, Hugh Grant, Baz Luhrmann, Brian Dennehy, Paul Sorvino, Ed Burns, Bruce Dern, Isabella Rossellini, Lou Diamond Phillips, Morgan Spurlock, Eli Wallach, Gabriel Byrne, Jacques Pepin, Bill Plympton, Phil Donahue, Phylicia Rashad, Joan Allen, Jay McInerney and Michael Cuesta**, as well as composer **Morton Gould**, artists **James Rosenquist, Oleg Cassini, Edwina Sandys and Bob Gruen**, comedian **Susie Essman**, Broadway stars **Kelli O'Hara, Melissa Errico and Savion Glover**, and 4-time Oscar winner for production and costume design **Catherine Martin**.

About the Gold Coast Arts Center

The [Gold Coast Arts Center](http://www.goldcoastarts.org) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting the arts through education, exhibition, performance and outreach. Located on the North Shore of Long Island, it has brought the arts to tens of thousands of people throughout the region for over 20 years. Among the Center's offerings are its School for the Arts, which holds year-round classes in visual and performing arts for students of all ages and abilities; a free public art gallery; a concert and lecture series; film screenings and discussions; the annual Gold Coast International Film Festival; and initiatives that focus on senior citizens and underserved communities. These initiatives include artist residencies, after-school programs, school assemblies, teacher-training workshops and parent-child workshops. The Gold Coast Arts Center is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Partners in Education program, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. More information can be found at www.goldcoastarts.org.

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For More Information on the Festival visit www.goldcoastfilmfestival.org or call 516-829-2570.

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