



WRIF has joined forces with CATV to form JAM.
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A Look at the 18th Annual White River Indie Film Festival's JAM-Packed Lineup

For immediate release: February 15, 2023

White River Junction, VT – From March 23 to 26th, WRIF (White River Indie Films) will return to the Briggs Opera House and the JAM space with a few subversive twists. The festival will feature an invigorating and diverse curation of 2022's best global indie cinema, including first-time features from Sundance, Venice and Toronto, and top-tier work by local filmmakers. Panel discussions and talkbacks are back, along with brunches and parties for mingling with fellow filmmakers and film lovers.

WRIF kicks off Thursday night with a celebration of regional Emerging Filmmakers, followed by a must-see secret screening of a rip roaring comedy/action/adventure that critics are calling the movie event of the year.

The festival officially opens Friday at the opening gala at JAM welcoming the community to celebrate with music from Route 5 Jive and food from Fulla Flava Jamaican Jerk. The party will move upstairs to the Briggs Opera House where comedy, suspense, ethnographic exposé, and metatextual trickery all come together in opening night film *No Bears*, renegade Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi's auto-fictional exploration.

In the spirit of bringing the world to the Upper Valley and Upper Valley to the world through film, selected shorts by winning WRIF Emerging Filmmakers from VT, NH, Maine, and Québec will precede feature films throughout the festival. Notable VT films include the fantastical *The Butterfly Queen* (dir. Liam O'Connor-Genereaux), described as a "hangover after the coming-of-age story," and *Whitman Brook*, a documentary meditating on the nature of time filmed at the Whitman Brook Orchard in Quechee, VT by NH Filmmaker of the Year, Ben Silberfarb. Both filmmakers will be in attendance.

The festival also aims to challenge the viewer to see through new eyes with award-winning documentaries *Rewind & Play* (dir. Alain Gomis) featuring never-before-seen footage of Thelonious Monk and *Racist Trees* (dir. Sara Newens, Mina T. Son), pondering how urban planning choices can segregate our built world. Both films will be followed by thought-provoking panel discussions with scholars and activists. Acclaimed documentarian Alice Diop's first narrative feature, *Saint Omer*, and Ireland's first Oscar-nominated film *The Quiet Girl* anchor the Saturday line-up.

After-parties on Friday and Saturday nights offer an immersive cinematic experience featuring screenings of the engrossing cinematic odyssey exploring David Bowie's life, *Moonage Daydream* (dir. Brett Morgen), and docu-fiction *Gush* (Sundance 2023) directed by emerging Indigenous experimental film artist Fox Maxy. The festival concludes on Sunday the 26th with the highly acclaimed tropical thriller *Pacifiction* (dir. Albert Serra).

Please contact Cedar O'Dowd, WRIF Festival Coordinator, at cedar@uvjam.org with questions.

CALENDAR LISTING:

WRIF White River Indie Film Festival 2023

Dates: March 23-26, 2023

Location: The Briggs Opera House & the JAM Space

5 S. Main St., 1st and 2nd floor

White River Junction, VT 05001

Contact: Cedar O'Dowd, Festival Coordinator cedar@uvjam.org

Tickets, Passes & Information: uvjam.org/wrif

uvjam.org/wrif

JAM – Junction Arts & Media (formerly CATV) is now located at:

5 South Main Street, 1st Floor, White River Junction, VT 05001

Mailing address: P.O. Box 141, White River Junction, VT 05001

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