



Award winners at the Closing Night Awards reception, from left, Catherine Eaton, writer/director/actor/co-producer of 'The Sounding'; Todd and Jedd Wider, directors of 'To the Edge of the Sky'; Nadav Shlomo Giladi of 'Across the Line'; Michael Ferrell, writer/director/actor/co-producer of 'Laura Gets a Cat'; Robin Grey, producer of 'Purple Dreams'; and Pavels Gumennikovs of 'Just, Go!' Photo by Nick A. Koridis for the SB Film Festival

Winners of 22nd annual Stony Brook Film Festival announced

The 22nd annual Stony Brook Film Festival, presented by Island Federal Credit Union, wrapped up with a Closing Night Awards Reception on July 29. The evening recognized the outstanding new independent films screened at the festival, which was held at Staller Center for the Arts at Stony Brook University from July 20 to 29. John Anderson, film critic and master of ceremonies, and a longtime MC for the awards reception, announced the winners.

The event attracted the largest attendance ever this year. Filmmaker participation also broke records with directors from Armenia, Bulgaria, England, France, Germany, Israel, Latvia, Netherlands, Spain and USA representing their films at the screenings. In addition, films from Finland, Iran, Italy, Norway and Sweden were in the mix.

"It truly was a magical year where almost every filmmaker attended their screenings to represent their films and host Q&As," said Alan Inkle, founder and director of the Stony Brook Film Festival, adding, "As for the films we showed, the audience scores were the best in our 22 years. Great films, great guests and packed houses nightly. It's what I envisioned for Stony Brook when we started this festival and it was certainly achieved this year."

Two of the filmmakers whose film won an award at the festival grew up in the Three Village area. The Wider brothers' documentary followed four families as they fought the FDA to gain access to a lifesaving drug to help their sons, all coping with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The world premiere of Todd and Jedd Wider's documentary "To the Edge of the Sky" was awarded the Audience Choice Award for Best Feature along with "Fanny's Journey," which tied with an identical high score.

"The Stony Brook Film Festival is an incredibly well curated and intelligent film festival. It celebrates independent film from around the world and gives its audience a chance to discover great films and interact with filmmakers," noted Todd Wider. "Supremely well run and organized, each film is shown



From left, John Anderson, film critic and MC for the awards reception; Karoline Herfurth, writer/director/actress; and Alan Inkle, director of the Stony Brook Film Festival attend the Stony Brook Film Festival's Closing Night's U.S. Premiere of 'Text for You.'

Photo by Nick A. Koridis for the SB Film Festival

once in a giant, state-of-the-art theater to a routinely packed crowd. This format really works well here, as the entire community focuses on one film at a time. Set in one of the most beautiful towns on Long Island and backed by a powerhouse university, the audiences are really smart and very welcoming. Don't miss this festival [next year]. It's a wonderful experience," he said.

Among the many highlights of the festival was the U.S. premiere of the rock documentary, "The Second Act of Elliott Murphy." The singer-songwriter Elliott Murphy, a Garden City native, moved to Paris after a music career with his band in the U.S. and then found new success in Europe. At the screening of his film, he hosted a Q&A and then played three of his songs from the stage.

Closing Night presented the U.S. premiere of "Text for You" ("SMS für Dich"), a romantic comedy. The writer, director and actress Karoline Herfurth came in from Germany to represent her film.

And the winners are:

2017 Jury Award — Best Feature
"The Sounding" (United States)

2017 Audience Choice — Best Feature (tie)
"Fanny's Journey" (France)
"To the Edge of the Sky"
World Premiere (United States)

2017 Special Recognition by the Jury — Spirit of Independent Filmmaking
"Laura Gets a Cat" (United States)

2017 Special Recognition by the Jury — Achievement in Social Impact
"Purple Dreams"
New York Premiere (United States)

2017 Jury Award — Best Short
"Across the Line"
World Premiere (Israel)

2017 Audience Choice Award — Best Short
"Just, Go!" (Latvia)

For more information about the Stony Brook Film Festival, visit www.stonybrookfilmfestival.com.



VENDORS WANTED

► **Heritage Trust** will host a Community Yard Sale every Thursday at Heritage Park, 633 Mount Sinai-Coram Road, Mount Sinai from 5 to 8 p.m. through Aug. 24. Vendor fee is \$10 per week. Register online at www.msheritagetrust.org. For more information, call 631-509-0882.

► **Davis Town Meeting House Society Inc.** will sponsor a Yard Sale & Craft Fair on Aug. 26 at the Lester Davis House, 263 Middle Country Road, Coram, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendor fee is \$25 per table, \$15 for members. Contact Maryanne at 631-804-2256 or email msiclaridouglass@yahoo.com.

► **The Farmingville Residents Association** will host flea markets on Aug. 27 and Sept. 24 on the lawn of Pat's Tattoos, 22 Granny Road, Farmingville from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Rain dates are the following Sundays.) For applications, pricing and full info, please email FRA23@optonline.net.

► Vendors wanted to join a multifamily yard sale on Sept. 9 at the **Setauket United Methodist Church**, 160 Main St., Setauket from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For registration or further information, contact Diane at 631-751-7375 or at dperitore@optonline.net.

► **Gallery North**, located at 90 North Country Road, Setauket is seeking fine art and crafts, woodwork, handmade furniture, printmakers and textile and fabric exhibitors for its annual Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival on Sept. 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Applications are available at www.gallerynorth.org or by calling 631-751-2676.

► **Smithtown United Methodist Church**, 230 Middle Country Road, Smithtown is seeking vendors for its 27th annual Country Fair to be held on Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee is \$50 for a 10-foot by 10-foot space. Call 631-265-6945 to request an application.

► The 5th annual **Centereach Street Fair** will be held on Sept. 24 on Mark Tree Road in Centereach from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Interested merchandise and food vendors should call 631-974-5425.

► **St. James Chamber of Commerce** is seeking craft vendors for its 30th annual St. James Day along Lake Avenue on Oct. 1. 10-foot by 10-foot spaces are available for \$125, after Aug. 15 for \$150. Applications are available online at www.stjameschamber.org or by calling 631-584-8510.

► **St. Thomas of Canterbury Church**, 90 Edgewater Ave., Smithtown seeks craft and new merchandise vendors for its annual Craft Fair and Fall Festival on Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a rain date of Oct. 21. Call 631-265-4520 or visit www.Stthomasofcanterbury.net.

► **The Sound Beach Civic Association** is seeking participants for its 2017 Health & Wellness Expo, to be held on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sound Beach Firehouse located at 152 Sound Beach Blvd. \$25 table fee (no fee for nonprofits). Registration deadline is Sept. 15. For more information, call 631-744-6952 or email Rubertob11789@aol.com.

► **Stony Brook University**, 100 Nicolls Road, Stony Brook will hold its 21st annual Autumn Art & Craft Festival on Nov. 11 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Merchandise vendors should call 631-563-8551.

► **Preferred Promotions, Ltd.** is seeking merchandise vendors for the Deepwells Holiday Boutique to be held at Deepwells Mansion, 497 Moriches Road, St. James on Dec. 2 and Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 631-563-8551.