

# ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY BRADLEY HOWARD

“Whitehouse Hockey”

## A Banquet of 40 Films

### Alexandria Film Festival celebrates 10 years.

BY NATALIA MEGAS  
GAZETTE PACKET

There are more independent film festivals in the Washington, D.C. metro area now than any other time in the area's history, and that's great for cinephiles.

One of the last metro area film festivals of the year is the Alexandria Film Festival, Nov. 10-13, celebrating 10 years of eclectic choices ranging from American to foreign films to local stories.

Patti North, who has been involved with the festival since its inception, first as a member of the city's arts council and now as executive director, says film festivals are special because they offer variety and diversity.

“The film camera can be a window of empathy .... Film gives you an opportunity to see that point of view and consider it on really intimate terms. It's a window not only on the world but on people,” she said. North says what makes the Alexandria Film Festival so special is their location and ability to call on area experts for panel discussions. “There will always be someone we can call upon about their expertise” on a film subject.

The four-day fest returns to the city with 40 films,

including a number of free events, post-film discussions, special events, live musical performances and special events. The festival kicks off on Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. with a free event on Market Square in historic Old Town Alexandria, a screening of the documentary “Nighthawks on the Blue Highway” <http://www.nighthawksbluehighway.com/> about a local blues band, followed by the band's concert.

The festival continues with Free Friday Screenings, a Foodie Showcase, and a Sports Showcase. Perhaps the most relevant is the Local Showcase, which will screen films like, “When Mickey Came to Town,” a short documentary about when Disney company executives tried to impose an unwanted theme park in a nearby town and “White House Hockey,” an eight-minute documentary about the longest running street hockey pickup game in America on Pennsylvania Avenue. The festival is also premiering season two of the PBS series, “Mercy Street.” Films will be screened at AMC Hoffman Center 22, Market Square and Beatley Central Library while the special events to celebrate independent films will take place throughout Alexandria.

Since its inception, the festival has had a good eye for worthy films. The festival's first year in 2007 screened “War/Dance,” a documentary by two Chevy Chase filmmakers, Sean Fines and Andrea Nix Fines, who won best film that night and later went on to be nominated

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Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

#### ONGOING

**Little Theatre of Alexandria: “A Party to Murder.”** Through Nov. 12, various times at 600 Wolfe St. It's Halloween and six people have come to play a murder-mystery game hosted by writer Charles Prince at a rustic island cottage in Michigan. This play is a fast-paced farce, so what could go wrong? As the characters embark on a weekend of fun, ghosts from the past begin to haunt the proceedings, and it becomes clear that they are both playing for laughs and their lives. The Little Theatre of Alexandria audiences are treated to rising tensions, secret passageways, incriminating letters, unexpected corpses, and a 25-year-old unsolved mystery that will propel the audience to...well, we don't want to give away the unexpected and terrifying conclusion. Tickets are \$19-22. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

**John M. Adams: “Current Interrupted.”** Through Nov. 13, gallery hours at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Free. Visit [www.thefullempy.com](http://www.thefullempy.com) for more.

**Matthew Grimes: “(In)Material” and “Pliant.”** Through Nov. 14, gallery hours at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter) for more.

**Young at Art Exhibition.** Through Nov. 17, gallery hours at Durant arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Calling all senior artists. This annual event is cosponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and Goodwin House Foundation. The Call for Art is Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$20 fee to submit up to three works of art. Visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or call Mary Lee Anderson at 703-836-4414, ext. 111 or Jeanne Jacobs at 703-824-1345.

**Art Exhibit: “Serenity in Chaos.”** Through Nov. 20, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of this show reflects the artist's unique view of the photographic medium. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Post-Graduate Residency Program.** Through Nov. 27, gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The Torpedo Factory Post-Graduate Master's of Fine Arts Residency is a competitive program, housed in Studio 12, where four emerging artists create and sell work, interact with the public, and network with other working artists. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**November Artist Showcase.** Through Nov. 30 at Broadway Gallery Fine Art and Custom Framing, 5641-B General Washington Drive, featuring the abstract and wildlife art of local artist, Buck Nelligan. Email [bev@broadwaygalleries.net](mailto:bev@broadwaygalleries.net).

**Thursday Mornings with Kathryn Coneway.** Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. The themes in the book, “The Artist's Rule,” will be a foundation to share experiences with creative practice. Each session will begin with a quiet time and exploration of materials before transitioning to a discussion of the

themes and practices outlined in the chapter. Participants should purchase a copy of “The Artist's Rule” and read the introduction and first chapter prior to the first meeting. Registration is \$50. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening) for more.

**Art Exhibit: Color Disorder.** Through Jan. 8 at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Katie Baines and Amy Chan's acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print work on display. Sat., Nov. 13, 4-6 p.m. is opening reception. 703-548-0035, [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

**Art Making as Meditation with Kathryn Coneway.** Second Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent's quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Email [info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org](mailto:info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org).

**Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.** Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series “Mercy Street,” accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit [www.dcmilitarytour.com](http://www.dcmilitarytour.com) for more.

**“Ancient Art of Movement.”** 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

**Flamenco Show.** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit [www.latascausa.com](http://www.latascausa.com).

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

**Alexandria Cars and Coffee** invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

**Dishing up Wares for a Holiday Harvest Spread** through Nov. 30 at 105 N. Union St., ground floor Studio 19. Artists riff on an abundance of raw material, creatively cooking up a table fully dressed for the holidays from the centerpiece down to the dishes. For more information, call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit [scopegallery.org](http://scopegallery.org), or [torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope](http://torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope)

**National Inventors Hall of Fame Exhibit.** Through November at The National Inventors Hall of Fame-USPTO campus, 600 Dulany St. The exhibit features the stories of Inductees of the National Inventors

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Seminary Road. Learn to use dried herbs to make gifts. Learn how to make herbal soaps in a crockpot too. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org). Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

**Oral History Project.** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Bring your family heirloom and stories for a history "show-and-tell" co-sponsored by the Alexandria Library and Office of Historic Alexandria. Oral historians will be on hand to document the objects and stories as part of the City's oral history archive. Participants should arrive a few minutes early to complete consent forms. All are welcome to come and enjoy local history through the perspective of fellow residents. Free. Visit [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org).

**Empty Bowls Alexandria.** 6 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Northern Virginia Community College's Fine Arts Department at the Alexandria Campus has partnered with the local organization ALIVE! (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) and will donate handcrafted, one-of-a-kind bowls for the Second Annual Empty Bowls Alexandria. Attendees and donors will enjoy a simple meal and receive handmade bowls made by NOVA students as gifts. Tickets for this event start at \$30 per person. Visit [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org) for more.

**Stroll the Boardwalk and Study the Night Sky at Huntley Meadows.** 6-8 p.m. at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Take a peek at what's new in the dark skies over the wetlands at Huntley Meadows. \$8. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/calendar.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/calendar.htm).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 13

**Women of Civil War Alexandria Walking Tour.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Learn more about women's roles during the Civil War in Alexandria. Alexandria was in a unique position during the Civil War. It was a city with Southern sympathies continuously occupied by the Union Army and virtually operating as a Northern supply depot due to its proximity to Washington, D.C., and its transportation infrastructure. The women who remained in Alexandria and those who came during occupation experienced the War not as a battle but a day-to-day way of life. This tour will explore the stories of a diverse group of women and their experiences living in Civil War Alexandria. Tickets are \$15. Visit [www.nwhm.org/get-involved/events/walking-tours](http://www.nwhm.org/get-involved/events/walking-tours).

**The Little Mermaid.** 3 p.m., at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre presents Disney's The Little Mermaid. \$12 admission, for more information contact Pam Peckar at 703-360-0686 or email [admin@mvcct.org](mailto:admin@mvcct.org).

**Jazz Piano Concert.** 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Improviser, composer and educator John Stetch plays re-arrangements of Mozart, Bach and Chopin. A reception to meet the artist will follow the performance. \$30 by cash or check; students free. [twgulturalfund@gmail.com](mailto:twgulturalfund@gmail.com)

**Capitol Steps Benefit.** 5 p.m. at U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. United Community Ministries hosts a 25th annual Capitol Steps Benefit. Tickets are \$80 and include food, wine, beer, and soda. Visit [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org) for more.

## MONDAY/NOV. 14

**Holiday Container Gardening.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Learn some tips and tricks for keeping greenery fresh and for selecting plants for winter long interest in containers. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org), 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com), or to ABC at 703-746-4550 or [AlexandriaBeautification@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandriaBeautification@gmail.com).

**Light It Up! Citizens Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Los Tios Restaurant, 2615 Mount Vernon Ave. Promotion to get lights installed at the outdoor basketball courts at Potomac Yard. Upcoming events to support this cause include a three-point shooting contest at four City Recreation Centers on Dec. 3, and the finals of the three point shooting contest at T.C. Williams High School on Dec. 13.

## TUESDAY/NOV. 15

**Homeschool Program: The Apothecary and the Civil War.** 1-2:30 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. What was the Apothecary's role during the Civil War? What did it sell? How did it stay in business? Learn this and more as visitors delve into the Civil War and medicine through the lens of the Apothecary. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Pre-registration is required. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club Dinner Meeting.** 6:30 p.m. at 8430 Richmond Highway. Learn about the Lions, a service organization which is celebrating its 100th year. 703-619-5005

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 16

**How to Bring Nature Home.** 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. "Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home," is an 8-part, 90-minute documentary by Catherine Zimmerman that explores how we can restore and incorporate nature into every landscape and redefine our relationship with nature, a practice some call conservation landscaping. Free. Visit [themedowproject.com](http://themedowproject.com).

## THURSDAY/NOV. 17

**Historic Pohick Church Christmas Mart.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Pohick Episcopal Church is located at 9301 Richmond Hwy. For more information see [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) or call 703-339-6572.

**Preschool Scholarship Gala.** 7-10 p.m. at Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. The inaugural Chairman's Hopkins House Preschool Scholarship Gala is an event to raise critical funds to provide preschool scholarships to deserving low-resourced, working and military families. Tickets are \$250. Visit [www.hopkinshouse.org](http://www.hopkinshouse.org) for more.

**Living Legends of Alexandria Host Beaujolais Nouveau Party.** 7 p.m. at 901 Pitt St. The event features a wine tasting, holiday shopping, music, food and an opportunity to view the 2016 Living Legends Exhibit and meet Living Legends. Tickets are available for purchase at <https://llawine.eventbrite.com>. Proceeds from the event will support Living Legends of Alexandria and the Family Legends Project. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit [www.AlexandriaLegends.org](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.org) or contact AlexandriaLegends@outlook.com

**Simply Three.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$25. Call 703-



PHOTO BY  
MICHAEL STREISSGUTH

"Night-hawks on the Blue Highway."

# 40 Films Form Festival

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for an Academy Award.

Of 200 films this year, as well as countless others curated outside of submissions, the festival screeners dwindled their choices down to 40, making for a rich and assorted slate of films, including foreign films from Brazil, China, Spain, Sweden, Egypt, and France, the latter offering a dramatic feature short called "Far-West" about a young man returning home to the countryside and "Pearl of Africa" about transgender women in Uganda.

Anne Merrill from Arlington, who has been attending the festival for the past seven years said, "Attendees should expect to be surprised by films that work their way into your heart and mind and stay with you for months after you first see them."

The festival, which is run by volunteers and sup-

ported by a grant from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts along with corporate and individual sponsors, keeps going because everyone involved shares the love of cinema, says North. "I've always loved film since a little kid."

Dennis McDonald of Alexandria, who has been attending for the past two years, says the opportunity to see smaller independent but well-produced films on the big screen at the festival, "is a special treat."

"If the next festival is like last year's, expect a lot of variety in theme, subject, tone and creativity," he said. "The more you see, the more likely you are to find a real gem."

The festival offers an all-festival pass for an early rate of \$50 per ticket that gains admission to all ticketed events at AMC Hoffman Theatre, the Meet the Filmmakers Happy Hour, and the Closing Awards Ceremony and Reception. Visit [alexfilmfest.com](http://alexfilmfest.com).

549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

**Community Dance with the Mount Vernon Swing Band.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. \$4. Call 703-765-4573 or email [Mary.bilowus@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Mary.bilowus@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 18

**Various Small Fires artist reception.** 7-9 p.m. Torpedo Factory, at 105 N. Union St. Isabel Cureux's "Various Small Fires," an artwork exhibit, explores how each small event in our life creates who we are.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 18-19

**The Little Mermaid.** 7:30 p.m., at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre presents Disney's The Little Mermaid. \$12 admission, for more information contact Pam Peckar at 703.360.0686 or email [admin@mvcct.org](mailto:admin@mvcct.org).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 19

**Benefit 5K Race.** 8:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Community benefit for the neediest children. \$25 pre-race, \$30 day of the race. Pre-race Packet Pick Up Friday, Nov. 18 3-7 p.m. Contact Lee M. Britton, NCSSW 703-660-2000.

**Family Volunteer Day** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Address and directions will be sent by e-mail after you signing up. To sign up your family, please choose the 'Sign up as a team' option and list all of your family members with their ages. For more information, go to Volunteer Alexandria <http://www.VolunteerAlexandria.org>.

**Community Holiday Shop.** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mt Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane in Mt. Vernon. A local tradition that includes 50 artisans, orchids, chutneys, cakes, and pies, upscale resale, handmade quilt raffle, and a homemade lunch shop. For more information, go to [mvuc.org](http://mvuc.org).

**Quilt Raffle.** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. The quilt "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood" will be raffled (\$1/ticket) at the Holiday Shop in Mount Vernon. The Holiday Shop includes 50 artisans, a room of orchids, chutneys, cakes, and pies, upscale resale, and a homemade lunch shop spread out over two building and manicured grounds. [Mvuc.org](http://Mvuc.org).

**Beyond the Battlefield Walking Tour.** 10 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. A guided walking tour of Civil War sites in Historic Old Town. The tour will last approximately 2.5 hours and cover a route of 1.75 miles. Advance tickets are \$15 through the museum's website, or \$20 the day of the program. [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org),

703-548-1789.

**Cider Tasting Festival.** 7-9:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. The cider tasting highlights Celebrate Virginia Cider Week, Nov. 11-20. All week participating restaurants and retail stores to taste and purchase Virginia Cider. A passport can be picked up at the Alexandria Visitor Center, The Lyceum, and participating businesses. For list of participating sites and details about the passport and contest, visit [alexandriava.gov/Historic](http://alexandriava.gov/Historic).

**Country-Western Dance.** 7-9:30 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. The dance is sponsored by the The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. For more information go to [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or call 703-860-4941.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 20

**Carpenter's Run for Shelter.** 8 a.m. at USPTO Building, 600 Dulany St. Run for Shelter, featuring a 5K, 10K and Fun Run is a great way to get your entire family involved and giving back to the community this fall. Race to end homelessness.

**Spirituality in Nature.** 1:30-4:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 109 S. Washington St. Meet along